

# WMAC (NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

September 27-29, 2021

Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre, Whitehorse, Yukon

## Monday, September 27, 2021

KDCC, Whitehorse, Yukon

---

**Jennifer Smith** (Chair), **Michelle Gruben** Inuvialuit Game Council (alternate), **Evelyn Storr** Inuvialuit Game Council (alternate), **Billy Storr** Inuvialuit Game Council, **Colleen Arnison** Government of Canada, **Tyler Kuhn** Yukon Government, **Kaitlin Wilson** (WMAC NS staff), **Allison Thompson** (WMAC NS Staff), **Craig Machtans** Government of Canada (alternate), **Matt Clarke** Yukon Government (alternate), **Mike Suitor** YG Regional Biologist

---

### 1. Reconnect

The meeting was called to order at 9:17 am. Jennifer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Agenda

Stephanie Muckenheim was unable to attend the meeting. Her IFA implementation update will be deferred to a future meeting.

Council will discuss the CINUK proposal this morning in advance of the presentation from Isla Meyers-Smith tomorrow.

**Motion 2021-09-01** to approve the agenda as revised. Moved by Tyler Kuhn, seconded by Colleen Arnison.

### 3. Minutes

*July 2021 minutes:* Staff will remove the names from the Council member discussion about the WCMP before finalizing.

**Motion 2021-09-02** to approve the July 2021 meeting minutes, as amended. Moved by Billy Storr, seconded by Tyler Kuhn.

Council briefly discussed who the 'appropriate authorities' are with regards to WCMP sign-off. WMAC NS has taken the approach that, in the case of the WCMP, both IRC and IGC are appropriate authorities.

#### 4. Action items

Kait provided an overview of the Council's action items. Notes are provided on action items where the Council had some discussion.

Billy Storr has been working with IGC for many years and he contributed to the 1998 ISR grizzly bear plan. He noted that coastal ISR communities do not have a management plan or system for grizzly bears. Historically these communities have not encountered grizzly bears. Each community has its own management priorities. It's difficult to capture the varying management priorities in one plan.

*UFA vs IFA legal research* - Council will seek an update from Lindsay Staples on the progress of that work. In general, clarification of the UFA versus the IFA could be beneficial especially when it comes to Yukon regulation changes and the role of the YFWMB.

Yukon is currently reviewing how it approaches public engagement on proposed regulation changes under the *Wildlife Act*. It would be timely for the Council to submit feedback on this process.

**Action item 2021-09-01** Staff will coordinate sending a letter to the Yukon Government to provide feedback (about UFA vs IFA jurisdiction) on their review of public engagement for proposed regulation changes under the *Wildlife Act*.

**Action item 2021-09-02** Staff to facilitate a comparison of the old EISC guidelines with the new EISC guidelines. Specifically, look at the screening process they have outlined for the Yukon North Slope and if they align with WMAC NS' understanding of the IFA.

The Council discussed reporting and communication with the AHTC during the past 1.5 years.

It would be helpful to improve communication about YNS research. WMAC NS generated a package of IFA research summaries. This has been seen by the HTC but hasn't been circulated more widely (because of covid). In general, updates about research and management are not being communicated to the membership in the way they were before covid. HTC members want to actively participate in YNS research. Because of covid, it's difficult and sometimes impossible to have researchers present their proposals to the HTC. HTC has a list of research that they would like to see done. Some research and monitoring has been put on the back burner due to covid.

A member asked about collaborations with the IRC research division? Staff have been submitting IFA research project summaries for IRC's annual research report. External researchers' projects are not captured in that IRC research summary.

It was noted that Jenn Parrott's research group has a website that they keep updated; WMAC NS could contribute. The IRC research team has become more active and structured since 2019. This could help with keeping the community informed, especially by sending along research posters when the IRC research team visits the communities.

Making videos could be helpful for communicating outward about ongoing or completed research projects. This could be easier for people to receive than written information. Using the

WMAC NS facebook page is a good vehicle. People like to learn visually, in general. We can consider reviving the newsletter.

*Briefing note on IGC member support* - this topic will be discussed in the context of IGC's recent directive about member participation.

*Staffing in Aklavik* - Funding for a term position in Aklavik was approved by the JS Board for the Canadian Mountain Network project. Staff are figuring out how to transfer that money over from the Joint Secretariat into the WMAC NS budget so that WMAC NS can administer the funds. The funding is for a one-year position. This position is timely and important. There is a desire to see a position in Aklavik with secure, long-term funding. Staff and the WMAC NS Chair, along with the Canadian Mountain Network partners, need to sort how to implement the position so that the day to day job duties are clear, as well as how the position relates to Aklavik HTC and WMAC NS.

The Council discussed creating an agreement with Aklavik HTC to have them administer the funds. It depends on whether the HTC has capacity and/or the desire to take on the role of supporting this new staff member. The HTC's vision is that the new staff would be a WMAC NS position but Aklavik HTC could support with physical office space and other in-kind types of support. This could help Inuvialuit beneficiaries in Aklavik to understand their rights in the Yukon and how the Council operates. Aklavik HTC received Brighter Futures funds to hire a second HTC staff (there is a hope that this funding will become permanent). In addition, the Joint Secretariat Board surplus has provided an additional resource person for 2 years to each HTC to increase HTC capacity. This means that the AHTC will be going from one staff to three.

*Society status* - This action item is in progress. John Donihee provided some informal advice to WMAC NS and suggested working with a Yukon-based lawyer. Kait contacted a Yukon lawyer who is getting up to speed on the context for WMAC NS in the IFA. Kait is also working with T.A. Firth on the option of liability being covered through Council insurance, rather than forming a society. Michelle noted that the Aklavik HTC is a society under the NWT societies act and not the Yukon Act and so they cannot meet (and make motions) in the Yukon (ie, motions made in the Yukon would not apply in the NWT). If WMAC NS becomes a society, this will be looked into. Is society status alone enough to cover the liability for the members/directors? This is most relevant for the Inuvialuit members. Staff will continue to work on this matter and follow up with the Council.

## **5. Chair Update**

Jennifer was appointed as the WMAC NS Chair on July 8th, 2021. Her appointment is for five years. This reflects a new model, as in the past the Chair operated at the pleasure of the Parties. There has only been one Chair prior to Jennifer (Lindsay Staples). Jennifer and the WMAC NS staff will ensure that this new model of term lengths is included and considered under the Council's policies and procedures.

Billy Storr and Jennifer thanked the staff for their assistance in briefing them as alternate Chair and Chair, respectively.

Jennifer's new email address is [chair@wmacns.ca](mailto:chair@wmacns.ca).

WMAC NS has approved the new statutory holiday on September 30th, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The Joint Secretariat Board is meeting from October 1-2, 2021. Jennifer will be attending. There will be a strategic planning session at that meeting. Jennifer will bring forward the question about the transfer of Canadian Mountain Network supplemental funding from the JS to WMAC NS. Jennifer will also table the polar bear workshop proposal.

IGC is having a 42 Directors meeting in Inuvik this fall (October 25-27, 2021). They will bring in the 7 directors from each HTC. All of the co-management Board chairs have been invited to present to the HTCs about their mandates. This is an opportunity for the Chairs and HTCs to talk about how they communicate and what can be improved.

The WCMP has been recommended to the appropriate authorities (IGC, IRC, Canada, Yukon). IGC has signed. Canada and Yukon are still reviewing it. IRC requested time to do a final plan review.

Tyler provided a short update on the Yukon Government WCMP process. The Plan should be reviewed by the Minister soon and then it will go to cabinet . After cabinet is when Yukon may go out for government-to-government consultation.

Colleen provided a short update about the Canada WCMP process. The Plan will not likely be looked at by Canada for 100 days (this means it won't be until after the new year). All the briefing materials are drafted and ready to go. The one concern Canada had was that Canada would prefer to sign last.

Next steps:

- Staff will follow up with IRC on their review process.
- Jennifer will follow up next week with GTC.

Canada is okay with the idea of the addendum, in terms of their WCMP process. For Yukon, if the changes are small and the types of minor things that may come up during First Nations consultation, it could be fine to miss this cabinet round. It depends on how substantive the changes are (this is a judgement call).

Council is amenable with small changes to the WCMP that acknowledge the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

Jennifer will reach out to Duane Smith to introduce herself as the new Chair of WMAC (NS).

Jennifer has sat in on PBAC meetings and the Inuvialuit-Inupiat joint commission. Updates will be provided later in the agenda.

Jennifer and Allison sat in on a meeting with the COSEWIC Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) subcommittee to discuss how Inuvialuit ATK could be provided for the upcoming

COSEWIC grizzly bear status report. It was a promising meeting for improving the process for how ATK is included in COSEWIC status reports.

The Yukon Minister of Environment will be at the WMAC NS meeting later in the week. Jennifer and Lindsay will book a follow up meeting with the Minister to discuss outstanding matters such as the WCMP and the Aullaviat/Aunguniarvik conservation agreement.

## **6. Discussion Items**

### **Society Status**

Covered under action items.

### **CINUK Proposal pre-discussion (Kait)**

In late July, WMAC NS received a request to support a pre-proposal under the Canada-Inuit Nunangat-United Kingdom Arctic Research Programme (CINUK). The CINUK proposal is linked to the Canadian Mountain Network (CMN) project that Council supported. The CMN funding is to establish a knowledge hub - a hub that pulls people together researching the Yukon North Slope, in particular the Porcupine Caribou summer range. The focus is on caribou use and Indigenous livelihoods.

The CINUK funding is meant to encourage relationships between researchers in the United Kingdom and Canada and Inuit communities across Inuit nunangat. Isla Meyers-Smith is one of these (UK-based) researchers, alongside Murray Humphries (McGill) and Trevor Lanz (UVic). WMAC NS staff and Chair provided conditional support for the CINUK pre-proposal in July - there was not enough time to circulate the pre-proposal to the full Council. The CINUK pre-proposal was successful and now the team is developing a full proposal.

WMAC NS staff flagged some concerns with the pre-proposal, in particular a lack of clarity about how the project links into the IFA governance structure. The staff notified project leads that support for the full proposal would be conditional on WMAC NS Council support, AHTC receiving information about the project, supporting it, and having ongoing meaningful dialogue between pre-proposal and proposal deadline, IGC engagement and support, and aligning the proposal with the ITK Research Strategy.

Jennifer noted that the project content seems good and aligned with the WCMP and the Council; we mainly want to avoid a situation where we're committing to a very large pot of funding that takes on a life of its own and requires capacity but where we can't steer the objectives. Staff suggested that CINUK identify one person to manage the whole project and handle the communication.

Michelle noted that she is named on the proposal and that the project should benefit Aklavik and build capacity among the younger generation for the future.

Colleen noted that this project ties in with the knowledge hub funding. The idea is to build this proposal fully and incorporate partner feedback before the November deadline.

## **7. Presentations**

## **IFA Implementation**

*Deferred to next meeting.*

## **8. Grizzly Bear Discussion**

**\*\*\* Tom Jung and (was there someone else?) joined the meeting \*\*\***

### **ISR Grizzly Bear Plan**

Kait provided an overview of the development of the new draft Inuvialuit Settlement Region Grizzly Bear Plan.

In 2019, the WMACs held a joint meeting and discussed the need to update the ISR grizzly bear plan because it was outdated and to dovetail with the development of the federal management plan (mandated under the federal *Species at Risk Act*).

Chanda Turner was hired on as the contractor to create the new plan in fall 2020. Chanda did a community tour in all six ISR communities as well as an online survey. Chanda presented the results of the community input to the Council in spring 2021. Chanda shared a draft Plan with the Council this summer. There was a workshop in summer 2021 to talk about the management objectives (Billy Storr and Mike Suitor attended). Chanda generated 'what we heard' summaries for all the community meetings/online surveys. The perspectives between the communities are quite varied.

Today's objective is for the Council to discuss the draft Plan and come up with WMAC NS feedback to submit to Chanda by mid-October. Detailed feedback from the Council is appended to these minutes.

Overall, it was noted that the community perspective is well represented but the co-management perspective is less obvious. The Plan is intended to be a "co-management" plan. The WMACs and IGC are to be the signatories. It is hoped/expected that organizations throughout the ISR with management responsibilities will use it (e.g. Parks Canada, Yukon, NWT). The structure of this Plan is intended to be similar to the ISR polar bear joint management plan; similar to that, there will be an implementation table created that will come out with, or after the plan that will outline who is responsible for what.

After the WMACs and IGC sign the Plan, they will recommend the Plan to Canada, Yukon and NWT. The recommendation will be that those jurisdictions recognize this Plan as providing management guidance for grizzly bears in the ISR. We still need to confirm/clarify the sign-off and recommendation approach.

The Council discussed how to provide feedback. Council wants to send in high level feedback and council members also want to provide detailed feedback to Chanda. Staff will capture what the Council has discussed today and circulate it to the Council before submitting to Chanda

**Action item 2021-09-03** Staff will summarize Council comments on the draft ISR grizzly bear management plan and circulate them to the Council for feedback. The comments will be drafted

into a letter to WMAC NWT that outlines the nature of Council comments and requests discussion at the next joint meeting to talk about (timeline, steps in process for sign off).

### **Grizzly Bear Quota Update from YG**

*Deferred*

### **CWS National Plan Update (Carine Cote-Germain)**

CWS is taking a new approach to the federal grizzly bear management plan. This fall CWS is conducting workshops to collect Indigenous knowledge on grizzly bears and desired management measures. There will be verification sessions in 2022.

The Council asked how the ISR grizzly bear plan will fit into the ECCC process. The draft ISR Plan has been circulated to CWS; they will plan to include that information. The federal grizzly bear Plan will not be an umbrella plan with appendices (like the polar bear plan will be).

For the ISR plan to be impactful and useful in the development of the federal plan, how in line (structure, plan components) does it need to be with the structure of the federal plan?

- ECCC can work with the ISR Plan; as they read it they can see what fits where

Tom - when Yukon did their grizzly bear plan, they did not know what the federal plan would look like. The ISR plan has the opportunity to be integrated with the national plan. ECCC could provide a framework to help structure what the ISR plan may look like so that it can contribute in the best way possible to the federal plan. We have yet to see a structure for the national plan.

The federal grizzly bear management plan will have all the same headings as other federal management plans.

Billy noted that a regional approach is important. Grizzly bears are not at risk in the ISR and in addition there are local differences, too (e.g. mainland vs island communities). CWS staff affirmed that there will be a regional approach to the federal plan, to reflect these differences.

An ISR-wide workshop is planned for late October. The invites have gone out to HTC's and Boards. The intent is to offer a maximum amount of honoraria and the HTC can use this amount to decide how many knowledge holders to send. The focus will be on management objectives + sharing of Indigenous knowledge.

Has there been any communication between this process and the ATK sub-committee? No but they will connect.

### **Yukon-NWT Reporting Harmonization**

*Deferred.*

**Meeting adjourned at 4:03pm.**

# Tuesday, September 28, 2021

KDCC, Whitehorse, Yukon

---

**Jennifer Smith** (Chair), **Michelle Gruben** Inuvialuit Game Council (alternate), **Evelyn Storr** Inuvialuit Game Council (alternate), **Billy Storr** Inuvialuit Game Council, **Colleen Arnison** Government of Canada, **Tyler Kuhn** Yukon Government, **Kaitlin Wilson** (WMAC NS staff), **Allison Thompson** (WMAC NS Staff), **Craig Machtans** Government of Canada (alternate), **Matt Clarke** Yukon Government (alternate), **Mike Suitor** YG Regional Biologist

---

Meeting called to order at 9:04 am.

## 9. Review of agenda for the day

No amendments.

## 10. Presentations

### Canadian Mountain Network Update (Mike Suitor)

Mike provided an overview of the CMN project. The CMN funding is only 3 years, but the funder is working on extending this. Most of the research projects that will be under the umbrella will be in the 3-4 year timeline. They are aiming to have grad students doing field work next summer (2022). The intent is to have an on the land gathering each year of the project (across communities). The hope is to extend projects beyond the CMN deadline.

The boundary of the PCH summer range is the geographical boundary of the project. The project covers other non-caribou species within that boundary. All of the projects link back to caribou and the people that rely on caribou.

How does this project line up with the WCMP objectives and conservation requirements? Mike thinks it links strongly. It is also linked with the community plan being created by VGFN and priorities from the PCMB.

Mike will be presenting to IGC this week (previous presentation was in the spring and was not very in depth). The AHTC has had a few updates, but Mike is still hoping to meet with them in person this fall.

How are the thematic groups being established? Not clear yet; looking to include 5-6 people per group. Driven by priorities/interests of partners, e.g. HTC or WMAC NS. There will be funding for participation in the thematic groups. Individual thematic leads will pursue funding for the individual research projects. There will be requests for IFA research funds for some of these projects.



The Chair noted the importance of building on the existing co-management structure.

### **CINUK Funding Proposal (Isla Meyers-Smith)**

Isla provided a presentation on the CINUK proposal. This proposal, if successful, would double the amount of money received through the CMN proposal and is intended to be nested within this knowledge hub framework. Part of the research will be focused on plants and wildlife. The research will try to also answer what the changes to plants and wildlife will mean for people.

The hope is to bring together folks doing work on the YNS. No Gwich'in involvement currently (CINUK is targeted specifically at Inuit).

ITK is one of the lead coordinators of the CINUK program. They are involved with project review and selection. This specific proposal is only for the ISR but CINUK will fund projects across Inuit Nunangat.

Feedback from the Council included:

- There are now trained Inuvialuit drone pilots based in Inuvik. They could be included in the research projects.
- For the livelihoods aspect of the project, access is a big component. Could there be some focus on how climate change is affecting access to resources (as opposed to affecting the resources themselves)?
  - Trevor Lantz noted that there is still a lot of flexibility in project design. For example, we could include working groups that work through different scenarios. It could also be more quantitative. Hopefully, this will be driven by local knowledge holders.
- Who will be working on the livelihoods piece of this research?
  - In the CMN proposal, the emphasis was put on this work being done locally, via the Indigenous knowledge coordinator. There could be a grad student - the project leads are open to improving this aspect of the project.
- It's really important to see, from any research, how the outcomes can better the lives of community members. It's also important to go back to the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action - how can we use research to support reconciliation. The proposal should link clearly to these important concepts.
- When would funding flow if the project application is successful?
  - About 4 months; looking at a project start date sometime in spring 2022.
- It would be great to get research priorities from the AHTC. WMAC NS is interested in working through iterations of the proposal.
- WMAC NS staff flagged the need for a presentation to IGC and IGC's support for the project.
  - Mike will brief IGC on the CINUK project.
- Is there funding to hire the IK coordinator this year so that they are involved in the thematic groups from the outset?
  - Yes, this funding comes from CMN and will flow through PCMB and be supervised by Deana Lemke.

### **Dall's Sheep Research Project (Sydney Goward)**

Sydney is a Master's student at the University of Victoria. She is working with the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board on Dall's sheep ecology in the Richardson Mountains.

GRRB has started a community-based monitoring program which uses wildlife cameras to survey Dall's sheep and an annual helicopter survey in the Black Mountains area. Sydney is working with the camera data. There are relatively few cameras which limits the project to a temporal analysis rather than a spatial analysis. There is a traditional and local knowledge component to the project. Community research priorities (Gwich'in) have informed the project. The goal is for the project outcomes to provide useful information that the RRCs and GRRB can use to make stewardship decisions.

Was there a population count or survey in the last couple of years for Dall's sheep?

- The last year a big Richardsons survey was done was 2018; there is one planned for June 2022. This year (2021) they could not fly (weather). In 2020 they counted 210 individuals (minimum) in the Black Mountain area.
- The draft Richardsons Dall's Sheep Plan has a threshold of 500 individuals for management actions (<500 is voluntary harvest restriction, <350 is legal restriction). In 2013/14, there were 497 sheep counted. In 2017 the final count was over 600.

Mike has been working with Sydney on her project.

How and where we deploy cameras is a big part of getting useful information. These cameras were deployed using local knowledge. Can Sydney, through her project, evaluate the effectiveness of the local knowledge approach versus a Western science approach (random location/locating wildlife trails)? It would be beneficial to be able to demonstrate the importance of local knowledge. This could inform other camera trapping work.

- Sydney will try to evaluate the strengths and limitations of this type of camera array.

The Council thanked Sydney for her informative presentation.

## **11. Member Updates**

### **Canada Update**

Colleen provided a presentation on Ivvavik 2021 field activities and some 2020 follow-up (provided beforehand in the meeting binder).

Parks Canada was able to do all of their core field work in 2021. This included: the breeding bird survey at Sheep Creek (not Margaret Lake), serviced remote cameras for grizzly bear monitoring, changed out permafrost probes, water quality/benthic invertebrates, new STREAM project (collab with University of Guelph) to collect eDNA and compare with other methods used.

Update on IFA funded projects:

- *Songbird abundance*: wanted to assess perceived decline in songbird abundance from earlier field work. 2021 was the final year of the project. Results are expected in spring 2022. This project will likely be incorporated into Parks Canada's core ecological monitoring program.

- *Climate induced variability on behaviour, distribution and demography of PCH:* YG will update on this project.

Parks Canada did a polar bear den survey in March 2021 in Ivvavik; no dens were found. Saw one set of tracks. This is a visual survey; in the past, dens were spotted but in recent years no dens have been spotted. This year had a very low snowpack which could have affected the results. YG noted that no cubs of the year were seen off the Yukon North Slope during the genetic mark-recapture field work in spring 2021.

Parks Canada is considering taking part in a caribou antler survey. The antler survey is a new pilot project where the researchers find and date antlers. So far the work has occurred on the Alaska north slope. The location of cow antlers can tell you where the calving ground was because cows drop their antlers after giving birth. There is a signature in the antlers that identifies where they spent their summers. We can understand where caribou historically calved and summered for the past couple hundred years in a non-invasive way. Parks is wondering about expanding this work to the Yukon North Slope. There were 49 samples collected this year by Parks Canada. What should be done with them?

- The Council feels that this project is interesting. Overall, it is worth understanding more about the cost and implications of this project.
- Could there be a harvester-driven component? E.g. if harvesters are out on the Yukon North Slope and happen to find antlers.
  - At this point, it's not clear if this kind of data collection would be useful but Parks can talk more with the researcher.
- What state or quality do antlers have to be in to be usable by artists? If you know the story of the antler (age, location, etc.) that can be built into the story of the final project that an artist makes.
- If the antlers are not going to cultural use, there is a wealth of genetic (DNA) information that could contribute to different researchers' work.
- Parks put out malaise traps during field work this summer, as part of a bigger project to build a DNA library of arctic organisms.
- Parks has helped secure some funding for AHTC on the land programming, including 4 seasonal harvest camps. It is very meaningful to the Aklavik HTC to obtain funding to implement this on the land programming.
- How many summer students does Parks hire out of the Inuvik office? There were 2 in Inuvik and one in Paulatuk. Two beneficiaries were hired as technicians. One we are hoping to extend. Bringing an Inuvialuit student on every trip is very important to Parks Canada.

Craig's update:

- Canada has been undertaking consultations for listing barren-ground caribou under the federal SARA. Consultations are complete now and a submission is planned for NWMB that will be tabled with them in November 2021. We anticipate that they will run their own consultations. After NWMB does their consultation, they will provide a recommendation to Canada. Then Canada prepares a submission to their Minister on what they heard from everyone during consultation. Anticipate that it will be quite a while before Canada submits their recommendation to the Minister.
- ANWR: will be covered under Kait's staff update on ANWR.

- Negotiations with Inuvialuit and Yukon on A/A conservation agreement: there is a meeting on October 15th for the Parties.
- CWS got a large amount of money in the 2021 budget for nature conservation (5 years of funding); we are looking to increase long-term funding support for the work on the PCH. Some of that money is for marine conservation so there will be some marine bird work in the Beaufort Sea. Working on a submission to update emergency preparedness for all the coasts of Canada, e.g. updating all risk maps.

### **IGC Representative Update**

- Billy discussed how things have slowed down with covid. At this week's IGC meeting, there will be new regular and alternate member appointments.
- Michelle noted that it's important to prioritize an Aklavik-based WMAC staff person to support the Council. Fishing was a little better at Shingle and Herschel this year. Aklavik did not harvest many caribou this fall because the caribou were farther away.
- Billy emphasized that getting the Aklavik position set up is really important, especially for communication to folks about what WMAC NS does and the work happening on the YNS.
- Evelyn explained how many young families use the Shingle Point area for harvesting and also for doing monitoring work. Young people are learning and building capacity. Protection and monitoring of that area is very important. We don't have many Elders left that can share about that area so we have to rely on what is already documented in many cases.
- Evelyn asked about how the lack of cruise ship trafficking due to covid might be related to the high number of fish caught this year.
- Evelyn noted that health and wellness research ties directly to wildlife research. Health and wellness, e.g. community health, should be considered in all work that looks at wildlife populations.

### **Yukon Update**

- Matt updated the Council that this will be his last meeting, after 5 years. He will be replaced by Marc Cattet, the Director of Wildlife.
- Cameron and company were able to complete their ecological monitoring program in 2021. Unfortunately, no Inuvialuit student could attend due to Covid. Cameron and YG are keen to continue the Inuvialuit student program.
- Yukon Government has now released a wetlands policy for public review. Council did not provide comments on the previous draft. The hope is to have this policy completed by May 2022. It is a policy that applied to the entire territory, including the Yukon North Slope. It is very high level. There will likely be a need to discuss how aspects of implementation will be taken up by groups, like EISC. For example, in a screening review, Yukon Government would be looking to see specifically how wetlands are being addressed regarding effects of human use. There is also an avenue for designating wetlands of special importance. For the YNS though, there is already great coverage via parks, the IFA, and the co-management structure, so this tool may not be very useful. There are still several months for government to government discussions. There will be a virtual meeting in October, and implementation will be discussed.
- The Arctic Ecosite Guidebook is about to be released (ecological landcover classification).

## **YG Regional Biologist Update**

The Council watched Jessica Norris' summer research project video. Mike's update was deferred to a future meeting.

### **12. Presentations**

#### **Porcupine Caribou Conservation Plan (PCMB)**

Joe Tetlich (on zoom) and Deana Lemke (in person) joined for PCMB. Joe Tetlich was recently re-appointed as Chair for another five-year term. Congratulations were passed on to Joe.

PCMB noted that in recent years it has been challenging to gather Inuvialuit harvest data. The Inuvialuit harvest survey was suspended the past couple years. Collecting harvest data and sharing it with PCMB is part of the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Plan which all parties signed on to. PCMB is open to supporting Inuvialuit efforts to gather harvest data if additional capacity would be beneficial.

Jennifer Smith was hired by PCMB as a contractor to lead the Porcupine Caribou Conservation Plan and coordinate the traditional knowledge data mobilization project. Jennifer presented on these projects.

*Traditional knowledge data mobilization project:* This project is in partnership with Trailmark (a consulting company). The aim is to work with data that has already been collected. For the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, WMAC NS has been directly engaged with Trailmark to provide TK data underlying the WCMP. GTC and VGG also provided data. Strong data sharing agreements have been used and permissions are all user-controlled. Trailmark is analyzing the TK data; they will present summary reports back to the Parties. The TK will be integrated into the PCH conservation plan.

*PCH Conservation Plan:* Will inform a federal barren-ground recovery strategy if the species is listed federally. It's important to PCMB to highlight the very different context for the PCH than other barren-ground caribou herds in Canada. This Plan is for the Canadian portion of the range; the Plan will acknowledge existing Plans within the range. The work to build the Plan will occur over the next 2-3 years. Engagement with the HTC/RRCs will start to happen soon, virtually (including using kiosks). PCMB is focused on getting early feedback on the Plan. The PCMB is taking a coordinating role; the intent is for the Parties to sign off on the Plan

How does WMAC NS want to be engaged in the process?

- For engagement, are you targeting HTCs, communities?
  - Both. Communities in particular, the broader public as well.
- Parks Canada may be able to assist with deployment of the information kiosks (e.g. computers housed in the communities that have information and surveys so that people can engage with the conservation plan material).
- Science Rendezvous could be a good vehicle for conservation plan information. This is a springtime event in Inuvik where all the agencies gather in the high school gym and provide information on their science programming.

- Who does the TK information belong to?
  - For WMAC NS, ownership remains with the TK holders, as per the original consent agreements. Any analysis involving WMAC NS TK, WMAC NS will receive the results. And there is a step where Trailmark will come back to the Council and knowledge holders to say 'did we get this right'.
- If PCMB can go into the communities, an open-house type approach may work well so that people can drop in when they have time. IRC has used this approach successfully recently. Providing catered food is helpful too. Allowing people to drop in can help when there are capacity limits on indoor gathering spaces, so that you don't have to turn anyone away due to capacity.
- Since everything is done by data sharing agreements, does WMAC NS have a data sharing agreement with the other PCMB Parties?
  - No, only a data sharing agreement between AHTC and WMAC NS and Trailmark.

PCMB would like to be on the December WMAC NS agenda to talk about the TK project, conservation plan, and the Canadian Mountain Network project. PCMB's annual harvest meeting is February 8-9, 2022 (8th is the public day) and will be held virtually. WMAC NS is invited to the public day.

### **Traditional Knowledge Update (Gilly McNaughton) & Discussion of Priorities**

Gilly provided a presentation over zoom. Gilly is the traditional knowledge team lead at the Joint Secretariat. There is a hiring process underway for two additional positions within the TK team at the Joint Secretariat.

Gilly is working on a project looking at Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the ISR, to develop an Inuvialuit led co-management framework for ISR Sanctuaries. There will be engagement with HTCs and communities to support this.

Gilly is revising the ISR Traditional and Local Knowledge Research Policy. A legal review of the policy is now complete. Gilly is aiming for a summary and draft presentation to boards in early 2022 (March).

The Illiaqpiq Project involves an online TK library and \$38k per year for a technician who can digitize and archive JS and HTC physical files, including transcription of audio files.

The Chair noted that TK has long been a priority for this Council. The recently completed WCMP is built on a significant amount of documented TK.

Is Gilly connected to the IRC online platform?

- Not really; the future use of this platform by the JS is unclear.

### **Aullaviat/Aunguniarvik Establishment Agreement Update (Lindsay Staples)**

The federal election put much of the A/A Agreement negotiation work on hold. There is a main table and two working groups. The main table is a large group of representatives from governments, the community of Aklavik, IRC, and IGC, along with representation from WMAC NS and Lindsay. These meetings are chaired by Canada; WMAC plays a facilitating role.

There is a legal working group and a financial costing working group. The legal working group met in July. The outcome was that legal counsel for each Party would review the early draft of the agreement to assess how it affects their responsibilities under the IFA. I

The Agreement can bring non-treaty based funding for management capacity. Section 5 of the Canadian Wildlife Act has a provision for flowing money to other bodies. This could be used for a bilateral agreement between CA and YG to support territorial efforts in Aullaviat/Aunguniarvik.

The next main table discussion will be in mid October. Legal review and comments on the draft agreement will be complete by then.

Tyler noted that Yukon legal has provided some comments and suggested changes to the Agreement and is waiting on a response from Evan (IRC legal).

John Donihee has been assisting WMAC NS/Lindsay Staples – with a focus on the Aklavik and IGC perspective.

There is still work to be done to determine how best to manage the trust fund that comes along with signing the Agreement.

A draft of what the program implementing the agreement might look like has now been shared with the costing working group. There is interest in launching the program soon after the agreement is signed. Canada and the Inuvialuit have had discussions on a bridging agreement to cover the first 5 years, to get things moving. This would likely be a contribution agreement. Parks may be adding a funding request to the contribution agreement. Colleen will work with Jennifer and Lindsay to stay in the loop on this.

The foundations remain interested in this work and there is one other foundation that Lindsay is hoping to approach.

Mike, in reviewing the program summary, noted that it would be good to build in more cross-linkages, for example with CMN and other YG projects. Colleen agreed.

Lindsay invited Mike and Council members to contribute to the program summary, which was distributed as a printed handout.

Council suggested a meeting in fall-winter 2021 to map out the various positions being proposed or planned for under the A/A initiative, CMN, etc.

Lindsay would like to travel to Aklavik with Jennifer and possibly WMAC NS staff to meet with the Aklavik caucus and IGC Chair. Could be a two-day discussion; first day without IRC, second day with IRC.

**Wednesday, September 29, 2021**

KDCC, Whitehorse, Yukon

---

**Jennifer Smith** (Chair), **Michelle Gruben** Inuvialuit Game Council (alternate), **Evelyn Storr** Inuvialuit Game Council (alternate), **Billy Storr** Inuvialuit Game Council, **Colleen Arnison** Government of Canada, **Tyler Kuhn** Yukon Government, **Kaitlin Wilson** (WMAC NS staff), **Allison Thompson** (WMAC NS Staff), **Craig Machtans** Government of Canada (alternate), **Matt Clarke** Yukon Government (alternate), **Mike Suitor** YG Regional Biologist

---

Meeting called to order at 9:05am.

### **13. Review agenda for the day**

There are a few outstanding items from earlier in the meeting that we will aim to address today (grizzly bear items and YG regional biologist update).

### **14. Finance Update**

Allison gave an overview of the various budgets and funding questions.

#### Inuvialuit Participation 2020-21

- Last year, all spending was on honoraria and not travel. Our budget was \$61,913 and we spent \$35,521.
- Expenditures were heavily influenced by covid restrictions.
- Emphasis was on equitable compensation of Inuvialuit member time and including alternate members, mirroring government alternate representation.
- Unspent funds from last fiscal are not carried over for our future IP spending.

New IGC Directive: The IGC has put forward new guidance - the Chair and an Inuvialuit representative should attend all IGC meetings. This has financial and governance implications.

2021-22 Funding Overview: WMAC NS total funding \$1,009,705

#### Council Budget

- The Council has regular activities and special projects. In the last agreement with Canada, they committed \$50,000 every year for WCMP implementation. This would fall under regular activities.
- Council is planning for another carry over this year.
- So far, spending is similar to past years (i.e. heavier spending later in the year)
- Staffing
  - Planning to split out legal and supplementary staff from the "regular" staff expenses
  - Request to Council for approval for extra \$15,000 for administrative support
- Allison has made some adjustments to what is currently committed to reflect what has happened to date.



### Nature Fund

- Now includes the \$106,000 received from the Joint Secretariat.
- We are aiming to spend out our total budget as this is the final year of the project.
- The supplementary funding will mostly be allocated to a community tour, honoraria, and legal work

### Inuvialuit Participation - Looking forward & discussion of IGC directive

- We have made a few changes to work toward equitable compensation and inclusion. There is a financial cost to these changes, which is not reflected in our total IP funding. Even though the Council budget has been increased (via negotiations with Canada), the IP budget has not received an increase in many years (and our understanding is there are no negotiations underway on Inuvialuit participation).
- Billy noted that it would be beneficial to have IGC reps on WMAC attending the IGC quarterly meetings.
- Jen suggested budgeting for three in person meetings, with the option to attend the fourth virtually.
- Allison has budgeted for the new IGC directive by including time for the WMAC presentation but also for the Chair and IGC member to attend for both open days.
- Evelyn requested determining what the IGC intent was behind the directive

**Action Item 2021-09-04** WMAC NS staff will work with the Chair to get more information from IGC on their directive for Chairs and an IGC rep to attend each IGC meeting. Chair/staff will convey findings back to the Council

### Carryover Funding

- Allison shared some ideas for how to plan for our carryover funding (e.g. research strategy update, strategic planning, on the land meeting, community tour, Aklavik staffing, ongoing admin support).
- Billy is interested in the idea of a community tour (whole Council, potentially).
- Evelyn noted that it would be good for the Aklavik WMAC NS staff person to meet everyone, too. The community really links WMAC NS with Lindsay, so introducing the new Chair will be important.
- Evelyn noted that it would be a good opportunity to share print materials on topics like grizzly bears.
- Michelle likes the idea of doing an on the land meeting. The community tour would be greatly appreciated.
- Capacity building for the Aklavik staff person might be of value, training in how to do public speaking, mental health first aid. Can work with IRC on training opportunities.
- Jen would like to assess staffing from a holistic perspective, given the new phase Council is entering into, the demands of the Aullaviat/Aguniarvik Agreement, etc. How will the Aklavik position support WCMP implementation? The Aullaviat/Aguniarvik Agreement? Etc.
- The research strategy should be informed by the Traditional Knowledge policy work coming out of the JS.
- Even if the staffing in Aklavik can only be 3 years, that's still significant funding flowing into the community and capacity and training foundations being established.

- Developing communications products in recent years has been great to see. With all the work coming up (e.g. CMN), there is ongoing opportunity to communicate and discuss the linkages between climate change and livelihoods.

**Action item 2021-09-05** WMAC NS Staff and Chair will plan for carryover spending and prepare for a Council discussion of strategic guidance for the next five years.

ISR Grizzly Bear Planning Process follow-up: Council will convey that we have substantive edits. We can ask WMAC NWT about funding and capacity available to complete the work, and offer funding if needed.

**Motion 2021-09-03** to support a new \$30,000 five-month contract to provide administrative and strategic support to the WMAC NS office in Whitehorse. Moved by Tyler Kuhn, seconded by Colleen Arnison.

## 15. Staff Updates

### Operating Procedures

There is an early draft completed of the Operating Procedures. It is now being reviewed by the Chair.

### Companion Report

This is one of the resources that supports the WCMP. Allison presented her briefing note (included in the meeting package). There is a lot of history behind how this series of reports was created. The reports are a balance between “what you need to know” and accessible length - they are not state of the environment reports.

Round River Conservation Studies provided significant drafting support after Joan Eamer stepped down. Kirsten Madsen has provided meaningful editing support for all chapters. Not all chapters have had a review by a Council member.

Council agrees that, since the work is complete, there is no need to delete the annotated bibliographies in each chapter.

**Action item 2021-09-06** Send the Climate Change Companion Report to the YG Climate Secretariat for review; send the Traditional Use Companion Report to Lindsay Staples for review.

Council suggested that the staff edit the acknowledgements to reflect staff role.

**Action Item 2021-09-07** Council will provide any feedback on the penultimate companion reports before the end of October.

### North Slope Conference

Under the IFA, WMAC NS is supposed to hold the North Slope Conference every 5 years. This would have been 2020-21. The conference was postponed due to covid-19. Staff have been working with Jennifer to do some preliminary thinking on if/how to run the conference during a

covid reality. There was some funding available to put on a conference but it was tied to 2020-21 fiscal. There was a suggestion to hold the conference this fiscal, virtually. Staff and Chair are not keen to pursue this option. WMAC NS Chair wrote a letter to YG outlining why we plan to defer the conference until we can hold it in person.

Council feedback on the YNS conference included:

- It's important to consider virtual options because we could broaden our reach and youth could be by showing the conference in communities.
- In the past, how did the Council put on the conference with the limited \$50,000 budget?
  - In the past, the Council has submitted for and received supplemental funding from Canada to increase the budget by \$100,000.
- It's worth noting that putting on the conference takes a lot of the staff and Chair time for a year in advance of the conference. This winter, that is not feasible.
- The purpose of the Conference is to have public discussion amongst the various groups about the management of the Yukon North Slope. An online conference would not achieve this goal of bringing people together. There is an argument to be made that we can't achieve the purpose of the conference as laid out in the IFA without gathering in person.
- With an in-person conference, we can still have a virtual component to increase our reach and inclusion for people in the communities.
- It could make sense to host the conference in Inuvik and support local businesses. This would be in line with a conservation-based economy theme.

#### Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Scoping Submission (New)

Kaitlin provided an update on this file (briefing note included in meeting package). Staff are seeking WMAC (NS) approval of the draft submission for the scoping period of the ANWR supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS). This will be a joint submission with WMAC NWT, FJMC, IGC, like last time. WMAC (NS) staff have taken the lead on coordinating and developing the submission. At this point, WMAC NWT and FJMC have approved the submission. IGC is considering it this week.

Compared to the last scoping submission, much of the content is the same. There is new content regarding legal deficiencies of the previous EIS, and some additional content referring to studies that have come out since the first EIS.

Yukon, Canada, and many other Canadian parties are preparing responses. Each organization has brought different perspectives and strengths to the process. The Inuvialuit perspective on rights is a unique lens. It's important to bring these points forward.

Council will submit feedback before Friday.

#### Polar Bear IK Workshop

Allison has been coordinating, along with WMAC NWT and North Slope Borough Staff, a project to include Indigenous Knowledge in integrated population models. The background work for this project is mostly completed. The next step is to hold workshops in Alaska and Canada to gather IK that can be included in the integrated population models that will be developed for

Southern Beaufort and Northern Beaufort sea polar bear populations. The project steering committee have developed a proposal for a workshop this winter (around Jan-Feb 2022). This will provide the opportunity to gather Indigenous knowledge holder feedback on the framework for including IK in integrated population models, and to gather Indigenous knowledge.

There has been a significant contribution from CWS toward the workshop (\$75k); \$15,000 more is needed to fully fund the workshop. The timing is important, as there may be only one more field season on the science side, and we need to ensure that the IK is gathered and analyzed in time to be included in the integrated population model. Council supports submitting the funding request to the JS, especially given the capacity contribution from WMAC NS staff. If the funding request is not approved, Parks or WMAC NS may be able to provide the funding.

## **16. Invited Guests**

Minister of Environment Nils Clarke, Deputy Minister of Environment Manon Moreau, Advisor to the Minister, Elisha Sidoun.

The Minister congratulated Jennifer on her appointment as Chair and provided an overview of Yukon's IFA wildlife related initiatives.

Jennifer provided an overview of the Council's two biggest projects - designation for Aullaviat/Aunguniarvik and the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

The Council discussed Aullaviat/Aunguniarvik and the ongoing negotiations about a conservation designation.

## **17. Presentations**

*Herschel Island Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park Update*  
Carrie Mierau, Richard Gordon, Cameron Eckert

Activity on Qikiqtaruk slowed down during covid. Richard showed the Council a presentation about the 2021 Qikiqtaruk operations. Key takeaways:

- There was an Elder and Youth program this year, they did char sampling for DFO.
- The Rangers have been able to work on some maintenance projects while there haven't been visitors. The traveller's cabin received some important safety upgrades.
- There is a lot of high water that is affecting the infrastructure and operations. This will become more of a concern with new cruise ships coming in. The air strip is also shrinking and more and more affected by climatic changes. Every flight that comes in, the Rangers need to communicate with Aklak Air about the current conditions of the air strip. Richard works hard to train new Rangers and communicate the importance of having a continuous, comprehensive record of observations.
- The Rangers noted that for some of the vegetation plots that are part of long-term monitoring datasets, the plots are starting to have no new growth. It's really important to get the researchers back out on the Island.
- Two new Rangers will be hired over the winter and Richard will work with IRC on training programs.

At what point will a decision have to be made about accessing Qikiqtaruk by air?

- We will have to continue assessing the situation carefully as we proceed. The Rangers will maintain the airstrip for the sake of their operations, and also safety is the biggest consideration. Parks Canada is encountering the same issues with Imniarvik. Yukon and NWT will also need access for fuel caching for the polar bear survey next March and over the winter. The teams will work together.

Richard thanked Michelle and Stephanie for their behind the scenes assistance. Michelle noted that the participants in the Elder and Youth program always rave about their time on the island. Mike thanked Richard and his team for their support on the polar bear program.

-----

## **Deferred Agenda Items**

### Grizzly bear tag reserve system

Mike provided a summary (briefing note provided).

Under what WMAC NWT has recommended, unused tags can be allocated to any zone the following year, without geographic bounds. For example, an unused tag from Ivavik could be applied to a DLP the subsequent year in Tuktoyaktuk (for example). WMAC NS can recommend limiting this.

- Does Council support the proposed reserve tag system, as presented? Yes.
- Does Council have any specific additions to this model? E.g. only sharing between adjacent units
  - Limit geographic extent (adjacent zone)
- Are there any other recommendations that Council would like to put forward?
  - Consider linking back to the ISR Grizzly Bear plan
  - Waste management at Tapqaq
  - Planning for landfill management

Billy noted that during the last quota discussion, the Council agreed to keep the quota at a 'conservative' rate. Aklavik may be interested in increasing the quota.

Mike noted that the risks to the population on the YNS are very low.

**Action Item 2021-09-07** Staff will draft a letter to WMAC NWT (for Council review before sending) signalling the Council's support of the grizzly bear quota reserve system, with a geographic limit to adjacent zones, and recommending linking this policy to the ISR grizzly bear plan, recommending planning for landfill management and waste management at Tapqaq.

**Action Item 2021-09-08** YG will implement the new grizzly bear reserve tag system and provide an update to Council at the next meeting.

Recommendation to the minister is not required.

### Harmonizing NWT and Yukon Grizzly Bear Tag Systems

YNS tags expire at a different time from NWT tags. What if someone is at Shingle and has a Yukon tag and a NWT tag but they are forced to come back to town because their tag is no longer good? The harvesters want both tags to expire on the same date, June 30th.

Yukon issues their tags under the authority of the *Wildlife Act* which has set season dates. Changing the season would require a new regulation under the *Act* and that would take years. We could potentially do an administrative fix by supplying the HTC with tags for next fiscal much earlier in the season.

Bear harvesting typically starts mid-April, so Yukon could provide Aklavik HTC with tags much earlier? Aklavik HTC wants them for March 1st. Then the tag is good for the entire hunting season.

Another route could be to see if Yukon can enact HTC bylaws. This would be a big endeavour.

**Action item 2021-09-09** Mike to investigate the possibility of providing AHTC with the next season's grizzly bear tags as early as March 1st.

*Jessica Norris' Summer 2021 field research video*

Jessica was not able to be present to share her video. Mike updated the Council on some of Jessica's work and future plans. Jessica's video will be shared once the population slide is removed (the data could be misleading without context).

*Future Meeting Dates and Meeting Wrap-up:*

If WMAC NS wants to go to Ivvavik next summer, they should fly in on July 12 to share flights with Parks Canada.

Consider holding a zoom call (half day) for remaining agenda items, after Aullaviat/Aunguniarvik Agreement meeting in mid-October.

**Motion 2021-09-04** to adjourn. Moved Michelle Gruben, seconded by Colleen Arnison. Meeting adjourned.

## Appendix – Detailed Feedback on the Draft ISR Grizzly Bear Plan

Feedback on the goal and principle included:

- It's a good opportunity for someone in Aklavik to work on this on behalf of WMAC NS.
- The management goal is about populations and the principle is about the jurisdictions taking their own approach. According to the IFA, we manage at the population level, so there is tension between the goal and principle. In practice, this will not be an issue for the YNS because there is one population.
- Aklavik often does not harvest their full quota. Right now there are a lot of bears but not big bears. Economically, it is more costly to harvest today. The price of furs has gone down and it is costly to take more time to travel further from town and search for a large bear to harvest. Bear meat is consumed less frequently.
- The tag regulations are an issue Aklavik would like addressed. Sometimes people lose their tag while out on the land. To put in paperwork about a lost tag is onerous. Harvesters must have a tag on them in case they are stopped by a conservation officer. It would be helpful if the harvesters could simply have their tag number on them, rather than specifically holding on to the actual tag.
  - Mike clarified that on the Yukon side, the regulations are not enforceable. On the Yukon, a conservation officer cannot penalize a harvest for not having a tag.
- The focus should be to make it easy for harvesters to harvest. Updated population numbers are needed to adjust the quota, but there isn't IFA funding available for a new population study.
- In the Plan's principle, the word 'role' is confusing - what does it refer to? Overall, suggest simplifying the principle.
- Why are we doing this plan? Who is it for? This piece is missing. It's important to have a section up front about why a plan is needed now?
- The Council worked heavily on grizzly bears in the past and then the focus shifted more to polar bears for the past 5-10 years. It's nice to circle back around to grizzly bears. WMAC NS has always been heavily numbers-focused and past TK and science projects have arisen from requests from AHTC to increase the quota. WMAC NWT has taken a different approach in the past, relying more on community knowledge not gathered in a comprehensive study.
- There are three grizzlies around Aklavik, all with cubs (two with two cubs, one with three cubs). People are seeing grizzly bears all over the place in the Delta and cabins are being broken into.
- The term 'historic range' needs a definition and context.
- The term 'preserve' could be changed and/or defined (the WCMP goes beyond preserving TU and preserve doesn't really acknowledge the changing context of climate change, etc.)
- The way that 'human safety' is included in the could be wordsmithed.
- Human safety is a big issue in Aklavik.

Feedback on the objectives and approaches included:

- It's difficult to read the objectives and approaches without the context.
- It would be helpful to understand why each objective is an objective (e.g. it was mentioned in community meetings, to meet national SARA requirements, from the WCMP, etc.).
- The objectives/approaches are not returned back to later in the Plan; feels disjointed

- Some of the objectives/approaches are similar and could likely be simplified. It's unclear who is responsible for implementing the objectives and approaches. Recommend re-writing the objectives so they are s.m.a.r.t. (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound).
- It would be helpful to know the structures that are already in place and what is already being done versus what is being added to? The objectives could be more referential to the existing management structure.
- Some of the wording choices could be improved. The first objective isn't specific to the objective. It reads as "collect more information" but assume that it is meant to be "better informed management decisions". Clarify the end point of the objective, and the sub-objectives provide the pathway to get there.
- The objectives reflect information, management, DLPs, waste management. They do not speak to protection.
- There could be a management objective relating to human safety. Approach 3.1 addresses this but not as an objective on its own.
- The sub-objectives under Objective 4 fall short. Add in sub-objectives about how to deal with the issue of attractants (fencing, etc.). This also ties into objective 3.
- In Aklavik, you can't fire a firearm in the municipality so it is difficult to shoot bears at the dump if needed. We are working on fencing for the Inuvik dump. When ENR harvests a bear in defence of life and property they will pay a community member to process the bear (stretch the skin, etc.).
- From a YNS perspective, it would be useful for the Council to think about what priorities there are for cabins at Tapqaq/Qikiqtaruk, etc.
- We could suggest wording about 'effective management of bear attractants'. Could suggest a sub-objective specific to electrifying dumps at the landfill, or having a plan in place to electrify the dump and educate community members about electrifying.
- There is no objective for traditional use, despite traditional use being part of the Plan's goal
- Council talked about how to add in the context for why the priorities are priorities, given that Chanda has already gathered knowledge from the communities. The reasoning behind an objective could be as simple as '5 communities thought this was an important priority'.

Feedback on the Management System section of the Plan included:

- The diagram shows all the bodies that interact. This is not specific to grizzly bear management. Who issues the tags? Who decides on quotas? Who provides scientific information? Who provides TK? Reconfiguring this figure to be more specific to grizzly bear may help. We could maybe adapt the polar bear management plan figure and tweak it to be more specific to grizzly bears.
- In the Yukon part, it says that the Yukon Plan doesn't apply to the YNS - it also doesn't apply to National Parks.
- What is the level of investment of our Council? Can we support additional funding or capacity to edit the Plan, and talk about the process and timing for closing out the plan. Could we suggest chipping in \$10,000 or so to get the Plan to a place where our Council is satisfied.
- At the end of the day this is a management piece, and sorting out management should be a high priority.
- It is important to convey that the strength of the Plan is the community input.



Feedback on the Inuvialuit Perspectives part of the plan included:

- Support for the approach that was taken to break down the perspective by community.
- What is the relationship between managing by jurisdiction and the community priorities?
- Would be good to have a map of historic range.
- A section about cross-community themes would be helpful.
- Thematic section would be good, something like dumps came up in 4 of 8 communities, stuff like that could be helpful. The section on 'mainland' themes was very informative.
- We can recommend to Chanda that she incorporate some feedback from the Community Engagement Report into the Plan - stuff like how frequently an issue came up, or if an issue is isolated to one community. This can help strengthen the Plan and make it more defensible.
- the YNS is a very specific scenario, recognized as different within the IFA. is it worthy of getting a little note/subsection about the YNS? Maybe not under Inuvialuit perspectives if it didn't come up naturally, but elsewhere.

Feedback on the Species Information part of the plan included:

- Draw some linkages to the ISR polar bear plan. Looking for places to have efficiencies and where actions line up.
- Is 'current harvest practices' included? E.g. many bears harvested in spring
- Threats were rather light on substance in the way they were described. If we are thinking of the SARA grizzly bear plan, a more fulsome discussion of the scope and severity of threats would be beneficial. That's consistent with our pushback that ISR bears are fine - this could help substantiate that argument. It was noted that there was no threat assessment completed for this plan, unlike the polar bear plan.
- There could be a line added into the Plan about the threats that are not covered because they do not apply in the ISR (e.g. agriculture). We could look to the COSEWIC report and the threats that were used in the special concern assessment and speak to that.

Feedback on Knowledge Gaps part of the Plan:

- Council noted that the list seems short and not comprehensive. Is it meant to be comprehensive, or what communities identified as gaps?
- There is not a lot of IK out there on grizzly bear. More IK would be good.