



WMAC (NS) Quarterly Meeting [L] [SEP]

September 21-22, 2016

Whitehorse, YT

Sept 21 - Kwanlin Dunn Cultural Centre Elders Lounge

Present: Ernest Pokiak, Mike Sutor, Todd Powell, Matt Clark, Chris Hunter, Danny Gordon, Lindsay Staples, Kelly Milner, Jennifer Smith, Richard Gordon.

A. Call to Order [L] [SEP]

Lindsay Staples (Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:05

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

Agenda was reviewed. No revisions or additions were made.

Approval of the minutes: Moved by Ernest Pokiak, second by Chris Hunter. [L]
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[L]
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C. Review of Action Items [L] [SEP]

Jennifer led the review of action items. The Action Item table was revised and is included as an appendix to these minutes.

D. Correspondence [L] [SEP]

ABEKS correspondence. Council clarified that the distribution of funds to ABEKS is \$5K from PC and \$7K from EC. A follow-up letter will be sent to ABEKS to confirm this.

E. Report from the Chair

Joint Secretariat- Human Resources review [L] [SEP]

In December 2015, the Board of Directors of the Joint Secretariat (JS) initiated an

organizational review of the entire organization. A review of senior management was completed in May. Several recommendations have come out of this review and were accepted by the Joint Secretariat Board. As a result, the JS Board is now looking to recruit a new Executive Director by Christmas. A second major review, which will include a full review of Human Resources at the JS will be conducted and should be completed by November. All staff, including WMAC (NS) staff, will be interviewed as part of this review.

The Council discussed the impact of this review on the overall capacity of the JS and how the uncertainty may affect staff at all levels. The issue of workplace culture and the need to ensure the workload is being shared among all employees was highlighted as two areas that will likely have a large focus in the review. Recruitment and performance reviews are important activities and were identified as areas that will likely require some improvements as well. The letter sent to staff, along with the workbook and interview guide for the HR review was shared with WMAC (NS) members.

Lindsay's time to participate in this review is currently coming out of the WMAC (NS) budget. A request for supplemental funding has been forwarded to the federal government that will hopefully help cover these costs. He has also notified the JS Board that he is not willing to carry on with this review at the same level after Christmas if there is no movement to address these changes.

CEAA Review [SEP]

The federal government is currently reviewing the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) has two seats on the advisory council that is reviewing CEAA. Lindsay has been asked to sit on one of the seats. The interest in this review is to ensure that CEAA legislation and the provisions under the IFA are in alignment and would likely require serious amendments.

A full report of the committee's activities will be presented at the December meeting.

IFA 101

The briefing note prepared as a result of the May 2016 workshop with Bob Delury is almost complete and will be distributed to members as soon as possible.

There was some discussion among the Council members regarding the ability to hear from other negotiators (Canada and Yukon). Some of the elements of the claim that point to the political interests of Yukon were discussed, including the establishment of the WMAC (NS) and Herschel Park as a Territorial Park (not a National Historic Site). It was determined that there are very few people left from that time who can provide the background, but taking the time to review, discuss and debate interpretations of the document is one method of ensuring that these points are not forgotten.

Herschel Video

Lindsay and Danny Gordon were filmed talking about Herschel Island and the history of Inuvialuit use from the 1920s onward. This is a first step in gathering information about Herschel and the final product has yet to be determined. There will be more discussion about this in December.

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F. Joint Secretariat Traditional Knowledge Coordinator - Cassandra Elliot

This was an opportunity to meet Cassandra who has just started in the position. One of her main projects is finalizing a Traditional Knowledge Catalogue. This will be on a website that will be publicly available later this fall. She is also completing a compendium of research carried out to identify where there are gaps that need to be filled or publications that are missing.

The second major project she is working on is a Traditional Knowledge policy. The signatories will be IGC and IRC. The policy is intended to have a mechanism for enforcement.

She identified a few areas of focus, including ensuring that all TK reports are communicated back to the communities and that TK is being collected to meet management priorities. A future project is to look to ways of integrating TK into management decision-making processes.

In November she will be doing a community tour to introduce the catalogue and the draft policies. The policy should be finalized by March 2017. A draft will be sent to WMAC (NS) for review as part of the drafting process.

WMAC (NS) will continue to keep Cassandra informed and engaged in our TK projects.

G. Report from Staff

Inuvialuit - Inupiat meeting

Jen and Danny attended the I-I meeting in Edmonton. Danny commented that it is a very useful and interesting meeting to attend and highlighted the amount of research and monitoring that is conducted on the Alaska side. The survey will be a large project to track as well as all the recommendations from the I-I Commissioners.

Traditional Knowledge Project

Supplemental funding has now been secured for this project. A preliminary meeting will be held in Aklavik to reintroduce people to the project and interviews will be done in November. WMAC staff are working with the HTC to help identify interviewees and determine how the interviews will be conducted. []
[SEP] A draft interview guide has been included in the member's package for review and any comments should be provided to staff by early October. The ELC results will also be brought to the meeting in Aklavik to put an Inuvialuit "filter" on the habitat types that could help support the interviews. Council asked if the Ivavik ELC could be brought into the discussion as well if time and resources permit. Round River has hired Will Tyson to carry out the interviews in Aklavik.

North Slope Funding Cycle

It has been suggested that the North Slope Council be changed from once every 3 years to once every 5 years. This is a policy decision for Yukon Government. It has been

presented to IGC and they have supported the proposal to change to every 5 years. Council discussed whether or not the conference is the best way to share information today or if there is a need to think of other ways to communicate and share information.

MOTION: Change the cycle of the North Slope Conference to every 5 years. Moved by Todd Powell. Seconded by Ernest Pokiak.

ACTION: Draft a letter to the Deputy Minister to suggest the North Slope Conference be held every 5 years. This will be distributed to board members before sending the final version.

Traditional Use Project

Staff are working with Peter Armitage to finalize this project. Maps have been distributed to the participants from Aklavik. A decision about what type of product WMAC (NS) would like to see will be held as a separate agenda item.

Other documents highlighted in the staff reporting package:

- HTC regulation changes
- Action plan for Oil and Gas (Yukon)

ACTION: Staff will follow up with YG Oil and Gas to ensure that they are aware of the need to engage WMAC (NS) in further discussions.

- Interview guide for JS HR review

H. Herschel Island Park Discussion

Park Ranger 2016 Season Report - Richard Gordon 

Richard presented the park ranger final field season report. Overall there were 359 visitors to the park, which is down from last year. The full report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

Highlights of the presentation included a discussion around changing weather and climate. He noted that winter snow conditions are changing and heavy drifting of snow makes it more difficult for aircraft to land in the spring. He suggested the season is also getting shorter for fixed wing flights. There were also two major storms on Herschel this summer. The storm in July was the most extreme weather event that Richard has seen in 20 years he has been working on Island. Avadelak Spit is now breaking away from the Island due to wave action and wash out.

Research and monitoring highlights included DFO char monitoring, wildlife sightings, and a camera project on Avadelak spit.

Heritage carried out some minor work and repairs on the buildings, including jacking up the trading warehouse the travelers cabin.

Archeology is still working on the skull that was found last year. This is a 900 year-old

skull that was found on the island. They are still working on where this artifact should be stored.

Danny asked if the rangers could put a bouy or a marker at the section where travelers may hit a point – near ptarmigan bay for safety reasons. This may be a coast guard request.

Herschel Island Park Management Plan Review– Carrie Mierau, Jean Langlois, Barb Hogan, Dan Pelechney.

The letter written by WMAC (NS) and sent to the Yukon's Minister of Environment was reviewed. The five areas identified by WMAC (NS) for further review were discussed. In the council's view, these topics require a more through review during the planning process where substantial discussion can occur to discuss management issues in a proactive manner. The Council described the history of the planning process and the desire to have scenario planning, risk management and flexibility in the new plan as well as high-level direction.

Participating members described the Ivavik planning process and the foundational pieces that feed into this process allowing for an expedited timeframe for completing the review.

The section of the IFA that refers to the National Historic Sites standard was discussed, and how it applies to Herschel Island. Heritage Staff spoke to the standards and what is accomplished on Herschel. They spoke about the heritage resources at Herschel Island and what they do as regular operations, their budget and what could be considered if there are major weather events or climate change actions that threaten to destroy the site. They said they are aware of the standards and adhere to them, but could do more with a bigger budget since 80% of budget is used in travel.

The importance of an analysis and risk management around the cultural resources was discussed. This is anticipated to be a large part of the working group discussion and it will be important to think about the real costs associated with the potential changes happening on the landscape. Scenario building, contingency planning and risk assessment for Herschel could be tools to inform the plan. The potential to include climate modeling options or matrix into the planning process or into the plan was also discussed. It was suggested that management triggers could be tools to use due to the dynamic nature of the landscape.

Economic opportunities and the guidance provided by the 2000 Senate Report on Northern Parks were flagged as important considerations for the future park plan. Synergies between Ivavik National Park, particularly where economic opportunities are concerned, were discussed.

The group discussed the possibility of inviting key people to speak to the working group (e.g. Chris Burn) or contracting people to provide more information on some of the key issues affecting Herschel. YG Parks noted they have a full-time planner working on this

project on their behalf.

The Chair of the Park Planning Working Group (Carrie Mierau) stated she is looking forward to meeting with the community to understand the vision coming out of the community. She says she is hearing different things from different groups around the priorities for the communities in relation to the park.

Negotiations for new multi-year agreements for implementation funding is on the horizon and through this process WMAC (NS) wants to take this opportunity to ask for more funding for the Herschel Island Park budget. WMAC (NS) suggested Herschel has been underfunded for many years relative to its mandate and now is a good time to think about the future requirements for the park.

A mandate from treasury will likely occur in March.

ACTION- WMAC (NS) staff will connect with Barb Hogan from Heritage to have a more detailed discussion around Herschel heritage management in order to develop a better understanding of their position.

I. Members Reports

Danny, Ernest and Todd had nothing to report.

Chris Hunter - Linda Binder has moved over to GNWT and so there is an acting finance manager now. Michael Blyth, the new visitor experience manager started in September. Diane Wilson will be in Whitehorse this winter. Steve Blake who has been with the agency since the mid 80s will be the acting superintendent.

This summer, Parks had a very successful visitor experience at Kane Basin. Gerry Kisoun was the cultural host and 3,200 people came through the area to experience this exhibit.

Wall tents went in at the beginning of the season at Sheep Creek. The bunkhouse and cookhouse were both renovated this summer – mostly for Parks staff. A new cedar deck was installed and the cookhouse deck was expanded with an enclosed netted area. These renovations will improve the base camp experience for visitors.

The council talked about the opportunities for infrastructure and programming on Herschel and the creative thinking that has happened in Ivavik. Chris said that they have had strong leadership at the top levels that has allowed them to do really creative things.

Ivavik camping trips were successful again and the trips with the Herschel stop over were very popular. The Park had a successful partnership with Canadian River Expeditions doing the science monitoring trip and cultural interpretation. It will be offered again next year. The number of rafting trips increased this year.

Muskox population work and behavior assessment was carried out this summer. Additional collar work is currently wrapping up. Six more cameras were added to the

wildlife camera program this year and this is helping Parks staff get a better handle on what this means for carnivore occupancy. Water and benthic sampling is now done for the Firth River monitoring program. The Park is also into its third year of Dolly Varden monitoring on the Firth River. It has been a successful program.

September 22, 2016

Waterfront Business Centre

Present: Ernest Pokiak, Todd Powell, Matt Clark, Chris Hunter, Danny Gordon, Lindsay Staples, Kelly Milner, Jennifer Smith, Stephanie Muckenhiem, Richard Gordon.

J. World Heritage Designation (Herschel, Ivvavik) ^[SEP]

Ivvavik and Vuntut National Parks and Herschel Island Territorial Park are currently on Canada's list of potential nominees for World Heritage Designation. When combined these sites showcase biodiversity, early human occupation and Beringia, and use by Gwitchin and Inuvialuit. A formal nomination has not been forwarded over the past 10 years. The question is whether or not to request to remain on the list of potential nominees. The Council discussed whether to pursue this designation.

The Council discussed the benefits of the designation including raising the area's profile, increasing partnerships, and affecting potential visitation. However, it was noted the cost and effort to bring the designation forward is significant. The cost lies in coordination and bringing the people and documents together. There may also be a requirement for new information to be developed.

It was noted that any decision made needs to be mindful of any standing that would dilute Inuvialuit rights under the IFA. It was clarified that typically these designations are mindful of rights and agreements in place.

External funding would be required for this work to occur, and there may be some economic benefit. For example, there could be certain requirements for building upkeep under the designation.

The recommendation was to stay on the tentative list for now and look at it again under a ten-year horizon, and not put effort into advancing it for now.

K. Ivvavik Management Plan Update - Kelly Milner/ Chris Hunter ^[SEP]

Chris updated the council about the process of updating the plan and the councils' role in the advisory committee. The first meeting has been held and most of the committee was in attendance. IRC was not able to attend, but will be able to be at the next meeting. Bruce Downie is facilitating the process and drafting the plan.

The first session was a scoping and visioning session. Kelly spoke to the importance of the visioning in the plan, and Chris talked about how the high level direction allows for flexibility. The next sessions will be more solution, strategy and target oriented.

Action Item: Council to review the vision and challenges documents drafted and provide comments back by Sept 29.

Council members discussed research as a challenge, particularly 'dead sampling' for fish and informing communities properly. It was also suggested that Porcupine Caribou were a primary driver to the creation of the park and that should be expanded on in the vision.

The draft plan will be circulated well in advance of the December meeting.

L. Community Based Monitoring Program – Jenn Parott

The Community Based Monitoring Program (CBMP) has been operational for eight months in all six ISR communities. The program is delivered using an electronic application (iPad technology that collects spatial and non-spatial information). The IRC has developed an app that is being used by all community technicians.

The program is working well and it is significant that the program is already able to produce maps showing harvest locations and hot spots. The importance of this is being able to track harvest locations and shifting harvesting hot spots over time.

The Council reviewed the community harvest reports and concerns were raised about the Aklavik harvest report. Council asked questions about some of the harvest numbers and how these numbers get verified.

ACTION: Danny will bring the issue of verifying harvest reporting back to the Aklavik HTC and Jenn Parott will follow up with Michelle Grueben to confirm the process that the Aklavik HTC follows to review and approve the harvest numbers.

Technical staff commended the final product and the potential utility. They asked about the ability of the data set to provide Porcupine Caribou harvest data as per the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Plan and offered to provide assistance conducting analysis through the PCTC. Yukon Government asked if there was an opportunity to share this data and it was clarified that this information is currently only for use for Inuvialuit management bodies, however data sharing agreements could be developed in the future. The Council also asked about incentive programs and the CHAT program. There was some discussion about the benefits of providing gas cards through a draw and how that may help provide more accurate reporting.

Hot spots and how they are identified was discussed and concerns were raised about ensuring that individuals harvesting areas are respected and not shared. It was confirmed that this type of information would not be shared with the broader public.

Harvest reporting calendars are being developed to help with recall and identification of different species. The Council was provided with draft newsletters for review (**not to be redistributed**). It was suggested that further newsletters could include information on how the information could be applied.

The program is looking to hire a new coordinator and focus on data collection over the next year. A community tour is planned for February to share a full year's data can be shared.

Overall, it was agreed that this is a great step forward and the survey has great potential. As it develops over the years, it will hopefully provide useful information for management planning.

* Matt Lemke from the Porcupine Caribou Management Board joined the meeting.

M. Porcupine Caribou Herd Monitoring

This presentation was requested by the WMAC (NS) and represents a lot of work from Mike to pull it together. The full presentation, including notes (all three parts: who and why; what and how; and collaring) is attached to this document as an appendix.

Discussion:

The council asked about the distribution of harvest of the herd between Canada and Alaska. Mike suggested that the bulk of the harvest is in Canada (estimated 85%). As a follow up, it was asked how the funding for research is distributed and Mike suggested that has fluctuated over time, but Alaska has traditionally provided substantial funding – usually over half – so their funding commitment is higher than their relative use of the herd.

*Stephanie Muckenhiem, Tom Jung and Rob Florkiewicz joined the meeting.

The Council had a long discussion about collars and how they are used in providing information that helps with the management of the herd and its habitat. Mike provided examples of the different collars that are used on the herd so the members could have a chance to handle them and understand better how they work.

Questions were asked about the differences between collaring cows and bulls and how collars may affect mortality. Mike provided information on how the collaring project targets different ages and what that means for how long they stay on and how it relates to the expected survival of the individual animals.

Council questioned how the effects of the collars on the individual animals are monitored and Mike described how photos are taken of each animal and its neck when collars are changed. One Council member suggested curving the edges of the collar upward to minimize the impact on the caribou's necks.

The question about costs and what has happened with annual budgets was raised. Mike suggested that the research program has doubled in size over the past few years, but

this has only been possible through additional funding through other partners such as US Fish and Wildlife. One Council member asked if it is possible to take a break on monitoring the caribou if the numbers are up.

The importance of the eastern North Slope to Porcupine Caribou was noted as an important piece of data for the WMAC (NS).

N. Budget Review

Jennifer walked the Council through the revised budget now including the supplemental funding.

The council reviewed the revised budget and suggested a few optional projects including a database for TU information or creating a product that shows an Inuvialuit ELC.

ACTION: WMAC (NS) staff will organize a teleconference by mid-October to discuss budget as well as grizzly bear and muskox framework.

O. IFA Funding

Stephanie provided a brief overview of the IFA funding discussions between INAC and YG. The focus of their conversation was on Herschel Island, wildlife programs, heritage management and the Yukon North Slope Conference. INAC appeared to be open to the conversation. There was little information provided about next steps and timelines. Lindsay provided more information about a template for submissions that should be available before Christmas and that the hope to have a new agreement in the spring. Supplemental funding will always be available for contingency spending.

Jennifer noted the new IFA funding process needs to be mindful of the contribution agreement for the Inuvialuit members (through the GNWT).

P. Traditional Use Products

There was a discussion as the final products of the Traditional Use project. Several options for atlases were discussed. The need to find a size of the map and or atlas was identified as a priority.

ACTION: Staff will put together a short briefing note outlining the options and will distribute to members for their comments. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Q. Deferred Items

Minutes to December meeting – members are asked to provide comments on the draft minutes.

Muskox Framework – the last comments are being gathered from GNWT. Once those have been incorporated, the framework will be complete.

December meeting dates – these will be confirmed by the staff and members through email.

Motion to adjourn – Ernest Pokiak. Second by Todd Powell.