



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

P.O. Box 31539, Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 6K8 Canada

Telephone: (867) 633-5476 Fax: (867) 633-6900

E-mail: wmacns@web.ca www.taiga.net/wmac

MINUTES

**WMAC(NS) Teleconference
Monday March 11, 2002**

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member- Yukon Government
Martin Raillard- Member- Government of Canada- Environment
Canada
Dorothy Cooley- Alternate - Yukon Government
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

Guests: Ron Larsen- Parks Canada, Inuvik

1. Approval of agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda. The purpose of the teleconference is to consider items that need immediate attention. Remaining items will be covered during the next Council meeting in early April.

Motion

To adopt the agenda.

Moved: Herbert Felix
Second: Doug Larsen
Motion carried

2. 2002-03 Wildlife Projects

**a) Yukon North Slope Muskoxen Population Survey and Composition
Count, April 2002**

Dorothy Cooley gave a summary of the project. The new satellite collars will be put on the muskox in July, as April is too close to calving. But there is still a need to complete a population survey and composition count in late winter. This is the best time for doing population estimates. The total cost of the project will be \$17,650. This is \$300 higher than in the proposal due to the costs for the plane being higher than expected.

Doug Larsen commented that the YTG Fish and Wildlife Branch considers this project to be a priority among those proposed for 2002-2003. He added that the Council has also agreed to support ongoing muskox work on the North Slope.

Motion

To recommend that the \$17,650 in YTG's 2002-2003 IFA wildlife program budget be allocated to the Yukon North Slope Muskoxen Population Survey and Composition Count, April 2002.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Martin Raillard

Motion carried

Martin Raillard asked if it is possible to consider multi-year funding if the surveys are to be conducted on an ongoing basis. Dorothy replied that there is an intention to do this once the Muskox Management Plan is finished.

b) Preparation and Review of Proposals for 2002-2003

The Chair noted that the proposals for 2002-03 wildlife research should be available for review by the Council at its next meeting. Doug Larsen commented that YTG's proposals will be ready. Ron Larsen reported that the proposals from Parks Canada will also be available but he was unsure about how many there will be. Martin Raillard added that the Environment Canada proposals will be ready as well. All agencies agreed to send their proposals to the Secretariat by March 18 so that they can be included in the meeting binder.

3. Review of Feb 20, 2002 financial statement

The Chair reported that the Council has recently signed an agreement with YTG that allows the Council to carry money over from one fiscal year to the next.

In reference to the financial statement, dated February 20, 2002, the Secretariat commented that YTG has agreed to provide funds to cover all the expenses related to the muskox workshop. Also the expenditure under Bylaws, Regulations and Legislation is related to the SARA workshop in Edmonton. This item is showing as being overspent because no funds have yet been allocated to it in

the 2001-02 budget. There will be an opportunity for members to review the financial statement in more detail at the next meeting.

4. Update of recent Council activities

The Chair summarized a number of the Council's recent activities and noted that more information will be presented at the next Council meeting.

- The WMAC(NS) Secretariat attended a federal government sponsored workshop in Edmonton, in January, to discuss the proposed Species at Risk Act and the role of Wildlife Management Boards.
- WMAC(NS) Chair and Secretariat attended a 'Yukon Species at Risk' Workshop in Whitehorse in January. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what a Yukon Species at Risk Program should contain and how it should work, including linkages to a national SAR program.
- Kirsten Madsen has been contracted to work on the Muskox Communications Strategy. She has developed several ideas which she will present to the Council at the next meeting.
- Ian McDonald has been making revisions to the Muskox Management Plan. The next draft of the plan will be ready for members to review at the next meeting.
- Revisions to the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan have been completed and will be distributed to members. Changes to the chapter on development are substantive from earlier drafts. The other chapters have had minor housekeeping revisions only. The Chair requested that any comments on the revisions be sent to the Secretariat as soon as possible. If all members are in agreement it should be possible to recommend the plan at the next Council meeting.

5. Upcoming meetings

a) April 2-4, Whitehorse

Doug Larsen reported that he had recently received a briefing on the allocation of IFA funds within the Yukon Government. He found it very helpful in understanding how IFA funds are spent and how WMAC(NS) fits into the bigger picture. Doug offered to provide Council members with this information at the April meeting. Ron and Martin agreed to try to provide the same type of information as related to the allocation of IFA within Environment Canada and Parks Canada.

b) July – North Slope

The Chair asked members to consider appropriate dates for the meeting on the North Slope in the summer.

Ron Larsen proposed the following dates in consideration of weather and other activities in the area:

- July 15- travel to Inuvik
- July 16- travel to Shingle Point
- July 17- travel to Herschel
- July 18- Herschel
- July 19- Herschel / Shingle Point
- July 20- Parks Day at Shingle
- July 21- return to Inuvik
- July 22- depart Inuvik for home

Members agreed to confirm the dates at the next meeting.

Danny C. Gordon asked about the current muskox numbers for the North Slope. He commented that people were asking about this at the recent Co-op meeting in Fort McPherson. People want to know where they are and how many there are. The Chair commented that the Council needs to have a discussion at the next meeting regarding the next concrete steps for muskox management.

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date