



**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](mailto:wmacns@web.ca) www.taiga.net/wmac

**MINUTES**

WMAC(NS) Quarterly Meeting

Inuvik, NWT

December 11-12, 1996

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**Wednesday December 11, 1996**

**Present:** Lindsay Staples - Chair  
John Russell - YTG Renewable Resources, Member-Government of Yukon  
Billy Archie- Member -Inuvialuit Game Council  
Nelson Green - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council  
Vicki Sahanatien -Parks Canada, Alternate- Government of Canada  
Dorothy Cooley - YTG Renewable Resources, Alternate-Government of Yukon and IFA Biologist  
Andy Tardiff - YTG Renewable Resources, Herschel Island Territorial Park.  
Debbie Van de Wetering - Canadian Wildlife Service  
Aileen Horler - Secretariat (recording secretary)

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**A. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3PM. Welcomes were extended to Debbie van der Wetering, Canadian Wildlife Service, who was attending on behalf of Joan Eamer. Welcomes were also extended to Andy Tardiff, who was given a standing offer to attend future WMAC(NS) meetings. It was generally acknowledged that it is helpful for the Council members to know about activities on Herschel Island.

## **B. Review and Approval of Agenda**

The Chair noted that due to a delay in starting the meeting earlier that day as planned, it would be necessary to shorten the agenda and concentrate on a number of specific issues. These included the financial statement and funding proposals, the muskox and grizzly bear management plans, and updates on wildlife projects. Most of the remaining items were updates and reports on issues and could be delayed. The Chair felt that it would probably be necessary to hold another meeting early in the new year, in Whitehorse, to address any issues not covered at this meeting.

### **Motion:**

*To adopt the agenda.*

Moved: Nelson Green

Seconded: John Russell

Motion carried.

## **C. Review and Approval of Minutes of the Sept. 11-12, 1996 meeting.**

Nelson Green requested that 'Inupiat' be added to the final sentence of the third paragraph on page 3 of the draft minutes. The sentence should read, "Nelson Green said that he would not like the Council to be involved in something that does not have the support of the **Inupiat** and Gwich'in in Alaska."

There were no other changes required to the draft minutes.

### **Motion:**

*To adopt the Minutes of the Sept. 11-12, 1996 meeting, incorporating noted changes.*

Moved: Vicki Sahanatien

Seconded: Nelson Green

Motion carried.

## **D. Review and Approval of Minutes of the Nov. 20, 1996 teleconference.**

There were no changes required to the draft minutes.

### **Motion:**

*To adopt the Minutes of the November 20, 1996 teleconference.*

Moved: John Russell

Seconded: Billie Archie

Motion carried.

**E. Review of Action Items of Sept. 11-12, 1996 meeting and Nov 20, 1996 teleconference.**

**Outstanding Items**

**Action 95-06-19:** IFA Workshop. Regarding the IFA Workshop, the ad hoc committee will schedule the workshop for fall '95, giving consideration to the scheduling of other meetings.

**Amended.** The Chair noted that this is a very long-standing action item, which, for a number of reasons, has proven to be extremely difficult to organise. The original intent of the workshop was to provide information and education about the IFA to selected government employees. The workshop was also seen as a possible forum to resolve a number of issues.

The Council should consider if an IFA workshop is still needed. The requirement for an educational session may not now be as great as it was when the workshop was first proposed. Governments are now dealing with a number of land claims which has generally made employees more conscious of land claim requirements and issues. Opportunities for employees to learn about the IFA will arise from other activities such as the work that will be undertaken to amend the Yukon Wildlife Act. In addition, the high turn over of personnel in government raises questions of the long term value of a major workshop.

Vicki Sahanatien commented that the two-day IFA workshop which was held by Parks Canada provided a general, but thorough and very useful overview. She felt that it would be possible to cover a lot of the material in one day if that was all the time available.

John Russell noted that any new government employee doing work which would involve the IFA should have a briefing with someone who has a good working knowledge of it. This type of briefing should be compulsory. Billie Archie added that it is important for those working with, and interpreting, the IFA to know the intent of the negotiators. Nelson Green commented that an IFA workshop would be useful for those who will be working on the amendments to the Yukon Wildlife Act. Andy Tardiff noted that YTG Parks employees refer to the IFA at certain times when dealing with hunters. Sometimes they also have to explain the IFA to visitors.

John Russell suggested establishing a briefing committee. The briefing needs to reflect the fact that there is more than one point of view. Those being briefed need to know that there are still some issues that are unclear and unsettled. There is a need for the Conservation Officers in the north to receive information on the regulations pertaining to the IFA. YTG has already put together a package for the Conservation Officers regarding First Nations issues. It could be possible to add a section on the IFA to this package.

The Chair added that a briefing could be done on an annual basis. Anyone appointed to an Inuvialuit board or committee would be required to attend the briefing.

Council members agreed that there should be an briefing offered on an annual basis to anyone working with the IFA. The briefing only has to be a day long and should include employees at Herschel Island, YTG Conservation Officers, YTG appointees to Inuvialuit boards and committees and members of the Aklavik HTC, especially the resource person. It is important that the resource people used for the briefing are able to address the intent of the negotiators of the agreement.

**Action 96-12-01:** A one-day briefing on the IFA is to be scheduled for early June 1997.

**Action 95-09-03:** Joan Eamer was directed to inquire with Canadian Wildlife Service if they could produce a publication of their 10 year review of wildlife projects on the North Slope, similar to YTG's recent publication.

**Ongoing.** Debbie reported that Joan hopes to have the report compiled early in the new year.

**Action 96-06-02:** The Chair will write a letter to Hugh Monaghan thanking him for his contribution to WMAC(NS).

**Completed.** The Chair reported that the letter also included an invitation to Hugh to join the members for a dinner, the next time the Council meets in Whitehorse.

**Action 96-06-03:** The Chair will write a letter to the Minister of Renewable Resources acknowledging Hugh Monaghan's contribution to WMAC(NS).

**Retired.** As there is a new Minister of Renewable Resources, this letter is no longer seen as appropriate.

Nelson Green inquired if the Chair has met with the new Minister of Renewable Resources. The Chair replied he had not yet met with him and suggested that the Minister could be invited to meet with the entire Council when members next meet in Whitehorse. Nelson commented that a member of the IGC should also be present at the meeting.

**Action 96-12-02:** The Chair will write a letter to Eric Fairclough, the new Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources, to request a meeting the next time Council members are in Whitehorse. Such a meeting would provide an opportunity for the Minister to meet Council members and obtain a briefing on current issues.

**Action 96-06-09:** John Russell will request that the Director of Fish and Wildlife Branch send a letter to the Alaska Fish and Game Department to inform them of WMAC(NS) initiatives regarding muskox management. Dorothy Cooley will draft a copy of the letter for the Director's consideration.

**Amended.** John Russell reported that this item has been delayed until the management initiatives were more settled. However, Council members felt that it was better to send the letter anyway in order to keep the Alaskans informed of the situation and to request comments on the Muskox Management Plan.

**Action 96-12-03:** John Russell will request that the Director of Fish and Wildlife Branch send a letter to the Alaska Fish and Game Department to inform them of WMAC(NS) initiatives regarding muskox management and request their comments on the Muskox Management Plan. The letter should note that the plan was developed by WMAC(NS) and YTG, in partnership with Parks Canada, and should include the Council's quota recommendation. Dorothy Cooley will draft a copy of the letter for the Director's consideration.

**Action 96-06-14:** WMAC(NS) will draft a letter to Minister Fisher regarding the closure of grizzly bear hunting to Yukon residents on the North Slope. This letter, to be conveyed with a copy of the WMAC(NS) grizzly bear resolution, is to include references to the Grizzly Bear Management Plan and the history of initiatives taken by the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, such as the moratorium, and a recommendation that the hunt be conducted by tag only. A copy of this letter is to be sent to the Inuvialuit Game Council.

**Carried forward.** This action has been delayed. The population of grizzly bears on the Yukon North Slope is being recalculated by the GNWT. This could necessitate changes to the WMAC(NS) grizzly bear resolution.

**Action 96-06-15:** WMAC(NS) will write a letter to the Inuvialuit Game Council bringing to their attention the issue of a closure of grizzly bear hunting to Yukon residents on the North Slope. This letter is to include a request for the IGC to review WMAC(NS)'s letter to Minister Fisher and ask that they consider responding to it.

**Carried forward.** As per action 96-06-14 above.

**Action 96-06-24:** WMAC(NS) will send a letter to Fenton Rexford in Kaktovik requesting information on interactions between muskox and Western Arctic caribou herd.

**Completed.**

**Action 96-06-26:** Dorothy Cooley is to prepare a report which summarizes the results of each of the muskox population surveys. The report is to document the results and the circumstances of each survey and is to include her personal impressions and experiences.

**Carried Forward.** The Chair emphasised the importance of having a written record of the circumstances surrounding the Muskox surveys, as the numbers alone do not give a complete. This record could be included with the survey results.

**Action 96-12-04:** Dorothy Cooley will send a copy of the muskox survey results to the WMAC(NS) office.

**Action 96-06-32:** Dorothy Cooley, Billy Archie and the Secretariat will work together to develop a proposal for the preparation of a video on the Muskox Management Plan.

**Ongoing.** Dorothy Cooley and Billy Archie are to look into this further and get some estimate of the cost.

**Action 96-06-34:** Joan Eamer will prepare a 'Bulletin' which outlines the current and anticipated activities related to ecosystem monitoring. The Secretariat will be responsible for its distribution.

**Ongoing.** The Bulletin is scheduled to be prepared in January as the next WMAC(NS) newsletter.

**Action 96-06-36:** The Chair will write a letter to the Minister of Renewable Resources seeking a commitment to continue with the work to amend the Yukon Wildlife Act. Now that the review has been completed, the Council would like to see a draft of the amendments. The letter is also to express the Council's desire to see a working group have the opportunity to review the amendments in the fall.

**Carried forward.** Discussion on this item was deferred to later on in the meeting.

**Action 96-06-38:** Vicki Sahanatien will send a copy of the Key Habitats of the Firth River Valley to the YTG Renewable Resource regional office in Dawson.

**Completed.**

**Action 96-06-42:** Joan Eamer will ensure that a description of the North Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative Database is included in the upcoming issue of the Ecosystem Monitoring Bulletin.

**Carried forward.**

**Action 96-06-45:** Joan Eamer, Vicki Sahanatien and John Russell will form a working group to review Volume 2 of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

**Ongoing.** Drafts of Volume 2 will be circulated for review.

## **Current Items**

**Action 96-09-01:** The Secretariat is to arrange a meeting with representatives from the PCMB to discuss the Council's perspective on North Slope issues. In addition, the secretariat will ask the PCMB to make copies of Volume I of the North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and other printed materials available at their table at the IUCN World Congress. The Chair will contact the Gwichin Steering Committee to further discuss their interests and concerns with respect to this issue.

**Completed.** The Chair reported that he had a discussion with Joe Tetlich (Chair, PCMB) and Bob Childers (Gwichin Steering Committee) on this matter. WMAC(NS) materials were made available by the PCMB at the IUCN World Congress. Nelson Green suggested that the PCMB should have a booth with the IGC which would save everyone money.

**Action 96-12-05:** The Secretariat will write a letter to the PCMB suggesting that they consider the possibility of integrating a display booth with the IGC, in an effort to reduce costs.

Further discussion on the IUCN World Congress was deferred until later on in the meeting.

**Action 96-09-02:** Vicki Sahanatien is to inquire about Parks Canada's position regarding the initiative to have the Porcupine Caribou calving grounds designated a World Heritage site, and notify the Secretariat.

**Completed.** Vicki reported that Parks Canada has no objection to the designation but would not be taking any action to push the matter forward.

**Action 06-09-03:** The Secretariat will distribute copies of the Nigel Bankes' briefing note on the World Heritage designation to all members.

**Completed.**

**Action 96-09-04:** WMAC(NS) will extend an invitation to Andy Tardiff to attend Council meetings.

**Completed.**

**Action 96-09-05:** The Secretariat will distribute copies of the letter to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation from Northern Affairs regarding the issuance of mineral prospecting permits and licenses in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region to all members.

**Completed.**

**Action 96-09-06:** WMAC(NS) position regarding Bill C-6 is to be circulated to members before it is presented to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development hearing.

**Completed.**

**Action 96-12-06:** The Chair is to meet with Bob Whittingham to discuss the WMAC(NS) presentation to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development regarding Bill C-6. The Chair is to write up the meeting as a memo to file.

**Action 96-09-07:** Joan Eamer will provide the Secretariat with a copy of Environment Canada's response to the second phase of the Coastal Zone Planning Project.

**Carried forward.**

**Action 96-09-08:** The Secretariat will send a copy of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan to the managers of the Coastal Zone Planning Project.

**Completed.**

**Action 96-09-09:** The Secretariat will purchase an appropriate gift to be given to Hugh Monaghan from the Council, in recognition of this contribution to WMAC(NS).

**Carried forward.** An appropriate gift can be given to Hugh at the proposed dinner.(see Action 96-06-02)

**Action 96-09-10:** Billy Archie will ask the IGC for assistance in getting the Aklavik HTC to produce bylaws for grizzly bear and muskox hunting pending, the IGC acceptance of the WMAC(NS) resolutions.

**Carried forward.** Billy reported that the Aklavik HTC passed a grizzly bear by-law at a recent meeting. However, there are concerns about the hunting of muskox that need to be addressed before they would pass a by-law. Billy had hoped that this could have been discussed in a community meeting prior to this Council meeting. The HTC wants to have an opportunity to talk with both WMACs and the IGC about the IFA and other issues such as by-laws. This item will be addressed in Aklavik in February 1997 at a meeting of the IGC, HTC and WMACs.



**Action 96-09-11:** Kelly Olson will ask John Meikle to contact the Secretariat regarding taking WMAC(NS) printed materials to the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas Conference for distribution.

**Completed.**

**Action 96-09-12:** WMAC(NS) will prepare a response to the proposed devolution of responsibilities from Northern Affairs to the Yukon Territorial Government.

**Carried forward.** The Chair noted that the main issue to address regarding the devolution proposal is the Withdrawal Order.

**Action 96-09-13:** WMAC(NS) will prepare a response to the Canada - Yukon Oil and Gas Accord.

**Carried forward.** The Chair reported that the Bill has gone through second reading and that there will now be public consultations.

**Action 96-09-14:** Vicki Sahanatien and John Russell will look into the question of what is meant by IFA section 12 (24), regarding public safety restrictions. Their inquiry is also to address the legal instruments for exercising that restriction and what is the test for determining the reasonableness of the restriction. John Russell will investigate the case law.

**Completed.** Further discussion on this issue was deferred to the next morning.

**Action 96-09-15:** Vicki Sahanatien will look into getting a tape of Good Earth Productions' TV show on Ivvavik National Park for Billy Archie, so that it could be shown in Aklavik.

**Amended.** Vicki reported that she was not able to get a copy of the tape due to copyright problems. It is due to be aired April 2 on the Discovery Channel and suggested that it maybe simpler to tape it from the TV.

**Action 96-12-07:** John Russell will make arrangements for someone to tape the Good Earth Productions' TV show on Ivvavik National Park s when it is aired on April 2, 1997.

**Action 96-09-16:** Kelly Olson will look into what maps can be produced for the Yukon North Slope from the Yukon's GIS and habitat and vegetation mapping work, and determine when they could be available.

**Carried forward.**

**Action 96-12-08:** The Secretariat is to contact Kelly Olson to find out when the vegetation and habitat maps of the Yukon North Slope will be available.

**Action 96-09-17:** A working group consisting of Billy Archie, Lindsay Staples, Kelly Olson and the WMAC(NS) Secretariat will meet for a day, by the end of October 1996, to discuss and plan for the next North Slope Conference. The Secretariat will contact Billy Archie to assess his availability. Should Billy be unable to attend such a meeting, Lindsay Staples is to phone him to discuss his views on the planning.

**Carried forward.** It was not possible to hold this meeting as planned. The Chair suggested that this meeting could be rescheduled to coincide with the proposed Council meeting in Whitehorse in January.

**Action 96-09-18:** WMAC(NS) Members will review the draft 1995/96 Annual Activity Report and provide comments to the Secretariat by October 30, 1996.

**Completed.**

**Action 96-12-09:** The Secretariat will contact Andy Tardiff to get an update on Herschel Island Territorial Park to be incorporated into the Annual Report.

Andy noted that some of the problems on Herschel Island involved the number of tourists that arrive on the cruise ships. Too many people are arriving all at the same time and it isn't possible for them all to be directly supervised. If it was known when the cruise ships were coming then it might be possible to have more rangers there to keep an eye on the visitors and ensure that no damage is done.

**Action 96-09-19:** The Secretariat is to contact Ian Stirling to obtain an update the situation and to discuss future actions.

**Amended.** John Russell asked if polar bears will be protected off-shore under the new Canadian Endangered Species Protection Act. He suggested that Ian Stirling be consulted about this possibility and asked if he feels that it is sufficient.

**Action 96-12-10:** WMAC(NS) is to contact Ian Stirling to obtain an update on the protection of polar bears off-shore and to discuss future actions. The inquiry is to include an assessment of the provisions provided by the new Canadian Endangered Species Protection Act.

**Action 96-09-20:** The Chair will write to the Ministers responsible for the Department of Fisheries and the Canadian Wildlife Service to have polar bears recognized in the Marine Mammal Regulations. The letter is to be copied to the responsible territorial Minister and to the Inuvialuit Game Council.

**Carried forward.**

**Action 96-09-21:** The Secretariat will schedule a teleconference for mid-October when proposals are sufficiently developed to discuss the allocation of wildlife management funds. Proposals must be submitted to the Secretariat who will distribute them to the members prior to the teleconference.

**Completed.**

**Action 96-11-01:** Kelly Olson will provide Billy Archie with a copy of YTG 10-year summary of North Slope research.

**Completed.**

**Action 96-11-02:** The Secretariat will determine the cost of producing an Inuvialuktun translation of the North Slope Wolf video.

**Carried forward.**

## **F. Correspondence**

The Chair reviewed the correspondence included in the meeting binder.

Reference was made to a letter sent to WMAC(NS) from the Aklavik HTC requesting a joint meeting with the IGC and WMAC(NWT) to discuss grizzly bear and muskox by-laws. The Chair noted that this meeting will be held in the new year.

Nelson Green reported on the NWT Co-management Chairs meeting, which he attended on behalf of WMAC(NS), in Yellowknife in November. Among the topics discussed was the development of an agreement by all claimant groups, with an interest in the Bluenose caribou herd, to contribute money for research on the herd. He also reported that the group had many questions and concerns regarding the Canadian Endangered Species Protection Act, such as a recent update on the species listings.

In reference to the letter of resignation from John Bailey, the Chair reported that Peter Usher has been nominated as the new Chair of WMAC(NWT) by the IGC.

In reference to the letter from Jack Kruse, University of Alaska, the Chair commented that he had had an opportunity to talk to him about the National Science Foundation Community Sustainability Study. Discussion on this topic was deferred to later on in the meeting.

In reference to the letter from the Inuit Tapirisak of Canada, Nelson Green commented that the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) had tried to gain IUCN

membership during the recent meeting in Montreal. This membership was denied because of the effects that the IFAW had had on the sealing communities. It was felt that if the IUCN truly supported sustainability then there was no place for the IFAW among its membership. Nelson considered this move to be a major victory against the animal rights movement.

The Chair drew the members attention to the contents of the reading file which would be available throughout the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

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### **Thursday December 12, 1996**

**Present:** Lindsay Staples - Chair  
John Russell - YTG Renewable Resources, Member-Government of Yukon  
Billy Archie- Member -Inuvialuit Game Council  
Nelson Green - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council  
Vicki Sahanatien -Parks Canada, Alternate- Government of Canada  
Dorothy Cooley - YTG Renewable Resources, Alternate-Government of Yukon and IFA Biologist  
Andy Tardiff - YTG Renewable Resources, Herschel Island Territorial Park.  
Debbie Van de Wetering - Canadian Wildlife Service  
Aileen Horler - Secretariat (recording secretary)

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

### **H. Old Business**

#### **8. 1996/97 Wildlife Management Funding Proposals**

In reference to funding research on the Porcupine Caribou Herd, the Chair brought the members attention to concerns that were raised by the IGC several years ago. At that time, the IGC felt that IFA implementation funds had already been used to make significant contributions to research on the PCH. The IGC was reluctant to contribute any further funds until such time as other users of the herd began to contribute to research as well.

The settlement of other land claims in the area now allows for various groups to provide funding toward research on the herd. There is a need for everyone to contribute, not just

the Inuvialuit. Even if a research request came directly from the Aklavik HTC, it would still be important to consider the IGC's position on the funding of further research.

## **18. YTG Wildlife Act Amendments**

The Chair reported that during a meeting with YTG in the previous month he had been informed that there is interest in opening up the Wildlife Act for amendments and to proceed with regulation changes and updates. This will include changes for habitat protection and will entail a complete re-write of the Wildlife Act. There is support for the IFA provisions to stand alone. It is hoped that this work will be concluded within the term of the new government.

There will be a public consultation process to review the proposed changes. However, considering the lack of understanding on the part of the public regarding the IFA, the consultations must be done carefully in order to avoid difficulties.

The members agreed on the importance of a meeting with the Minister of Renewable Resources to ensure that he is aware of the significance of the inclusion of the IFA provisions. It is a long standing obligation on the part of the Yukon Government to make the necessary changes. The amendments are a substantial undertaking and it is essential that the IFA requirements are not overshadowed and forgotten.

The first step was taken by YTG when it contracted a lawyer to identify the inconsistencies in the current Act. The Council must work hard to see that those working on the amendments are always aware of the need to address these inconsistencies.

## **12. ANWR**

### **a) WWF Meeting in Montreal**

Nelson Green reported he was able to represent the Council at the WWF meeting regarding the designation of ANWR as a World Heritage Site while he was attending the IUCN World Congress in Montreal. Although there was some support for such a designation, there were also many concerns. No one knew what the effect would be on hunting rights. There had been no consultation with those most affected. They should be the ones who are taking any initiative. There were also concerns that protection for the herd should cover its entire range not just a specific area.

The Chair commented that during discussions with other concerned parties it has been evident that the proposed designation is considered to be very unworkable for the Gwich'in and the Inupiat. There is much support for protecting the herd but not in this way.

The Chair added that there is a need to develop the theme of cross-border co-operation. There could be an opportunity to pursue this during the North Slope Conference.

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The meeting adjourned for the remainder of the morning in order for members to attend the IGC meeting with the Chair, and to be present at Bob Hayes' presentation on North Slope Wolves.

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After the lunch break, members were joined by Bob Hayes, YTG Renewable Resources and John Nagy and Marsha Branigan, both with GNWT Renewable Resources.

The Chair distributed copies of a 'Memo to File' which addresses the issue of public safety provisions in Ivvavik National Park and Inuvialuit hunting rights. The memo refers to a conversation held between the Chair and Bill Fox, in October 1996, in which Bill stated that Parks Canada's view is that this is a non-issue and that there is no legal or practical requirement for such any restriction on Inuvialuit hunting rights in the park. Bill requested that the entire matter be dropped and advised that there is no need for a legal or any other opinion on this subject.

Nelson Green added that, while in Montreal, the Inuvialuit had met with the Hon. Sheila Copps and her Deputy Minister. When concerns about hunting rights were raised, the Inuvialuit were assured that public safety was not an issue and that there is no possibility of restrictions being imposed.

John Russell reported that he had already done some research into this issue. The Chair suggested that it would be valuable to write-up the findings, as a memo to file, for reference at a later date.

**Action 96-12-11:** John Russell will prepare a written summary of his research into the regulation of Inuvialuit harvesting rights.

**Action 96-12-12 :** Vicki Sahanatien will request a written opinion on the issue of public safety restrictions in National Parks from the Parks Canada legal branch.

Vicki Sahanatien commented that she still has a concern for public safety in certain areas of the park, at certain times, which should be addressed. She hoped that it would still be possible to meet with the IGC, as previously proposed, to discuss these concerns. Billy Archie commented that people in Aklavik were concerned about hunting closures at Komakuk and Stokes Point. It is the visitors that should be restricted, not the hunters. Vicki responded that this is fine, but that Parks Canada needs to be aware of the situation in order to take the appropriate measures. It is important to keep the communication open between all parties and get things clearly laid out now.

## 2. Grizzly Bear Management

John Nagy and Marsha Branigan presented a draft report which they had prepared titled 'Summary of Harvest Data for Species Under Quota in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region'. The grizzly bear densities in the Richardson Mountains that were originally estimated by mark-recapture have recently been recalculated. The new estimates have been found to differ from the originals. In many areas this will have an effect on the existing quotas.

A discussion followed regarding the allocation and quota numbers for grizzly bears on the North Slope. There was considerable confusion over the process which had determined the number of bears available, the areas in which they could be hunted and who could hunt them.

The quota in WMAC(NS)'s most recent resolution on grizzly bear hunting (Resolution 96-11-09) was based on the numbers given in the draft Grizzly Bear Management Plan as presented to the Council by John Nagy in September 1995. The Chair explained that a number of conditions in the resolution were specifically requested by the IGC. These included that there be no regional allocating of bears, thereby ensuring that the quota is available over the entire North Slope, and that the North Slope quota remain entirely within the Yukon. John Nagy commented that he was not aware of these requests.

Billy Archie reported that the Aklavik HTC wants to get some clarification on the differences between the by-law requirements in the Yukon and NWT.

Everyone acknowledged that there is a need to improve communications between all parties and to discuss and clarify the issues of grizzly bear quotas and by-law requirements. A meeting should be held on an annual basis to ensure which could provide an opportunity to discuss common concerns.

### **Motion:**

*A meeting is to be held, on an annual basis, with representatives from the Aklavik HTC, WMAC(NS), WMAC(NWT), the IGC and the GNWT in order to discuss issues of common concern.*

Moved: John Russell  
Seconded: Billy Archie  
Motion carried.

**Action 96-12-13 :** A meeting is to be held with representatives from the Aklavik HTC, WMAC(NS), WMAC(NWT), the IGC and the GNWT to discuss and clarify issues surrounding the grizzly bears quota and by-laws. The meeting should be held in Aklavik, in January 1997.

John Nagy next referred to the Grizzly Bear Management Plan. Action items from the Plan have been laid out in a new format which summarises all the required tasks. The

tasks need to be reviewed for potential changes. The action items still need to be partitioned by agencies in order to identify who will do what and when. John commented that it would be useful to have some comments from the Council. The Chair added that YTG should also be given an opportunity to comment.

Billy Archie requested that someone from Aklavik be involved in future capturing and counting of grizzly bears.

## **5. 1995/96 Wildlife Management Projects Updates**

### **a) Paulatuk Fact Finding Trip**

Nelson Green reported that five hunters from Aklavik were in Paulatuk from November 19 to 26. The first day they were there, the hunters received a briefing from a number of people with experience hunting muskox. The hunters went out on the land for 4 days with two guides. They shot both a male and female muskox and learned the proper field dressing for a sport and a subsistence hunt. The only problems were mechanical. Everyone was very pleased with the results of the hunt. Some meat and one of the hides were taken back to Aklavik. Nelson presented the Council with a written report prepared by the hunters, as well as a report from the HTC.

**Action 96-12-14 :** The Secretariat will compile the written materials describing the Paulatuk Fact Finding Trip and distribute them to members and the IGC.

Billy Archie reported that there have been good reports of the trip back in Aklavik. The HTC is now waiting for a report from those who went to Paulatuk.

The Chair congratulated Nelson and Billy for all the work they did to make the trip such a success.

### **b) North Slope Wolverine Study**

There was no discussion on this project.

## **G. Financial Report**

The Chair reviewed the financial statement, dated Nov. 20, 1996. The members were asked to note the income from the sale of Volume I of the Yukon North Slope Conservation and Management Plan.

Among the items which will require a reallocation of funds are the production of Volume 2 of the Plan, and the Term Report, which requires approximately \$1000 for an additional print run. Ecosystem Monitoring may also require additional funds. The IHS Evaluation is over budget. WMAC(NS) has been covered many of the administrative costs but this



responsibility should soon be handed over to the new Administrative Group. More funds will be required to cover the last of WMAC(NS)'s administrative functions. The rescheduling of the IFA Workshop means that the \$1,375.80 which remains in its budget, is now available for other projects. The \$5000 allocated to an Implementation Workshop will not be required within this fiscal year. It was suggested that some funding could be reallocated as necessary at this meeting and then reviewed again at the next meeting.

The Chair raised the possibility of conducting a long term research planning workshop for the North Slope, before the end of March. Such a workshop is important and necessary to future research. The workshop could include a small group of people, with representation from the communities. The research plan could be available to bring forward at the North Slope Conference. Bob Hayes noted that this kind of long term research planning workshop had been successful held for the Aishihik area.

Nelson Green added that there is a need to go to the communities to get their priorities for research. Billy Archie agreed that Aklavik should be consulted and asked about their interests right from the beginning. The Chair noted that Aklavik had been consulted in the past, but that not many ideas had emerged. It is time to consult them again. There is a need for further discussion as to how to bring research proposal forward. John Russell commented that it is good to have people involved right at the beginning of any planning process in order to build partnerships right from the start. Securing funding early on from different sources is also important.

The Chair reported that he has had discussions with YTG about someone taking responsibility for co-ordinating North Slope projects. Dorothy Cooley has been suggested as someone who could take on this role.

The members agreed that it would be valuable to conduct the workshop before the end of March and that a proposal should be developed in order to consider the costs and logistics. It was suggested that participants include Council members, representatives from the GNWT, IGC, FJMC, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, PCMB, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Aklavik HTC, YTG, CWS and the academic community.

**Action 06-12-15 :** Dorothy Cooley and the Secretariat will develop a proposal for a Long Term Research Planning Workshop for the Yukon North Slope, to be held in March 1997.

With regards to the current budget, the members decided that of the \$1,375.80 allocated to the IFA Workshop, \$1000 of it should be reassign to the Term Report and the remainder to the IHS Evaluation. A further \$5000 of the unassigned funds is also to be allocated to the IHS Evaluation. The \$5000 allocated to the Implementation Workshop is to be assigned to the Long Term Research Planning Workshop. Other budget allocations will be dealt with at the next meeting.

**Motion:**

*To accept the changes to the budget as recorded .*

Moved: John Russell  
Seconded: Nelson Green  
Motion carried.

Billy Archie inquired if an honorarium is paid for participation in a teleconference. The Chair responded that an honorarium is paid and that it is administered by the IGC, as are all meetings.

**8. 1996/97 Wildlife Management Funding Proposals (continued)**

The funding proposals being considered were summarized as follows:

Project	Funding requested
Muskox Management Plan Implementation (YTG)	
1) ANWR/ Yukon Muskoxen (fecal sample results and habitat use)	5,000
2) School Unit Contract	4,000
Porcupine Caribou Monitoring (YTG)	
1) Body Conditioning Monitoring	10,000
2) Gastrocnemius Lipid Content	4,485
3) Telemetry and Composition Count	15,000-17,000
4) Adopt a Satellite Collar (2 collars)	6,400
5) Captures for Conventional Collars	7,950
Hunting Rights Pamphlet (YTG)	4,000
Johnny Charlie Scholarship (PCMB)	3,000
Paulatuk Fact Finding Trip (Paulatuk HTC)	365
Identification of Bryophytes (YTG)	\$1,850

**a) Muskox Management Plan Implementation**

Dorothy Cooley reviewed the proposed projects to be undertaken by YTG as part of the implementation of the Muskox Management Plan. These include a summary of harvesting rights, the preparation of distribution maps, the development of a sightings

reporting system, a literature search on moose-muskox interactions, the preparation of a chapter on general ecology of muskox to include with the plan, the preparation of a school unit on muskox and a fecal sample and habitat use comparison between ANWR and Yukon muskox. The costs for all of these projects, with the exception of the later two, will be covered by YTG.

When asked about the chapter on the general ecology of muskox, Dorothy replied that she is hoping to work on it with Martin Raillard of Parks Canada, and to include it as a companion document to the plan.

In reference to the formalization of the recording of muskox sightings, Dorothy commented that she believes she is only hearing of about a third of the sightings. Billy Archie suggested that muskox sightings could be incorporated into the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. He added that he would like to see the field workers receiving more training as research assistants. This is a good way to get information flowing from the field into the community.

**Action 96-12-16:** Billy Archie will work with Dorothy Cooley to develop ideas for a muskox sighting reporting system for Aklavik. A budget for the system should be prepared and will be considered by the Council at its next meeting.

Dorothy explained that the \$5000 required to do the comparison of the fecal samples and habitat use would be used to hire a contractor to do the work. The school unit would be developed in order for the teachers to have a resource tool to teach children about muskox. Council members agreed to recommend both muskox projects for funding.

Andy Tardiff reported that there were 14 muskox on Herschel Island last year. The caribou had moved away from the areas where the muskox are found. On a survey the previous week, Andy had seen about 100 caribou and 10 muskox on the island. The numbers of muskox have fluctuated over the years. They are now being monitored by the rangers.

#### **b) Porcupine Caribou Program**

The Chair again noted his reluctance to see any funds committed to Porcupine Caribou Herd research until other groups have provided some funding. Members agreed that steps must be taken to ensure that all other groups with an interest in the herd be made to understand the Council's position.

#### **c) Hunting Rights Pamphlet**

Council members felt that the production of a pamphlet is a worthwhile and useful project to support, but recommended that it should also incorporate the Parks Act and conditions off-shore.

#### **d) Johnny Charlie Scholarship**

The Chair commented that the Council doesn't have the mandate to fund such a scholarship. There is no doubt that it is valuable but the Council doesn't have the authority to contribute towards it.

**Action 96-12-17:** WMAC(NS) will write a letter to the PCMB explaining that the Council does not have the mandate to supply and funding to support the Johnny Charlie Scholarship.

A discussion was held on the value of offering training opportunities to Inuvialuit youth. Andy Tardiff commented that he has been trying to establish a program for Junior Rangers. Last year a young person prepared a biography of an elder in association with the Elderhost Program. Other possibilities should be considered. Vicki Sahanatien noted that Parks Canada hired three students last year.

**e) Paulatuk Fact Finding Trip**

Nelson Green presented an accounting of expenses incurred by the Paulatuk HTC during the Fact Finding Trip. The HTC requested a further \$290 to cover the additional costs of billets and administration, plus \$75 to cover repairs to one of the snow machines used during the hunt. Council members reviewed the accounting and agreed to support the request for an additional \$365 made by the Paulatuk HTC.

**f) Identification of Bryophytes**

Council members asked to have more information on how this work would contribute to wildlife management on the North Slope. Once clarification of this point is received, members will reconsider this proposal and decide whether or not to recommend it for funding.

Lindsay Staples left the meeting to address the IGC regarding grizzly bear management. Billy Archie took over as Chair of the meeting.

A further discussion was held regarding the funding of research on the Porcupine Caribou Herd. John Russell commented that it was important that some of these projects be funded this year. Nelson Green suggested that perhaps the entire issue of funding for the herd should be referred back to the IGC for consideration.

Dorothy Cooley reviewed each of the projects, noting that most of the requested funds would be contributions towards ongoing and long term programs. She explained that her greatest concern is to secure funding for the capturing for the conventional collars. The only opportunity to do this work will be in March. It is important to get these collars on the bulls before the 1997 census is begun. In reference to the satellite collars, Dorothy explained that there are ten in total. She won't go ahead with the work until she has commitments to adopt all the collars. Each collar costs \$3200 for two years. Gastrocnemius Lipid Content project is a one-time-only cost to cover analysis. The Body Conditioning monitoring is ongoing and will continue regardless of the Council's recommendation of funding.

Billy Archie inquired if support for projects such as the body conditioning monitoring could be conditional upon someone from Aklavik being hired and trained to assist in the work. Members agreed that this should be a consideration and suggested that Dorothy incorporate an opportunity for employment and training for someone from Aklavik into the body conditioning work being conducted in that area. Any project which provided an opportunity for local training and employment would be in a better position to obtain the Council's support for funding.

Members agreed that it was important for some of these projects to obtain funding this year. Nelson Green suggested that support be given to a number of projects with the clear understanding that the WMAC(NS)'s Chair facilitate a meeting between all of those who have an interest in the herd in order to discuss future funding arrangements. This is the last time the Council will support any funding for research on the herd. It is clearly time that others made a commitment to contribute funds as well. Nelson referred to the arrangement that has recently been made between a number of parties regarding the funding of research on the Bluenose herd. This is the kind of arrangement he would like to see develop for funding research on the Porcupine herd. Interested parties should meet and discuss any funding proposals as a group and then decide amongst them who will contribute and how much.

Members agreed to recommend some of the Porcupine Caribou projects for funding, for a total of \$26,885 of the \$45,835 requested, as there was a clear need for some immediate support. Funding was recommended with the condition that steps be taken to involve other groups in discussions regarding future funding.

**Action 96-12-18:** The Chair will convene a meeting with representatives of all parties with an interest in the management of the Porcupine Caribou Herd to discuss arrangements for the review and funding of future research on the herd.

**Motion:**

*To recommend for funding the Muskox School Unit (\$4,000), ANWR/ Yukon Muskoxen - Fecal Sample Results and Habitat Use (\$5,000), Hunting Rights Pamphlet (\$4,000), and the Paulatuk Fact Finding Trip (\$365). Funding is also recommended for research on the Porcupine Caribou Herd for Capture for Conventional Collars (\$8,000), Telemetry and Composition Count (\$8000), Adopt a Satellite Collar (\$6400 for 2 collars), and Gastrocnemius Lipid Content (\$4485), on the understanding that no further funds will be provided by WMAC(NS) until such time as other groups with interests in the herd have demonstrated their commitment to provide funding as well.*

Moved: Nelson Green

Seconded: Vicki Sahanatien

Motion carried.

The Secretariat noted that this leaves a balance of \$44,312 in the IFA Implementation Funds for wildlife management project for 1996-97. The Council will be able to consider

proposals for the translation of the wolf video, the long term research planning workshop and the identification of bryophytes at its next meeting.

**J. Next Meeting**

The next WMAC(NS) Quarterly meeting will be scheduled for February 1997. Funding proposal and other issues of immediate importance could be considered in a teleconference, if the need arises.

**K. Adjournment**

Thanks were extended to Andy Tardiff for attending the meeting.

**Motion:**

*To adjourn the meeting*

Moved: John Russell

Seconded: Nelson Green

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.