



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING

February 23 & 24, 1994

Whitehorse, Yukon

Present: Lindsay Staples (Chair) Donald Aviugana
 Don Russell Danny C. Gordon
 Brian Pelchat Dorothy Cooley
 Bill Smith Pam Boyde (Secretariat)
 C. McEwen (recording secretary)

Guest: Jonathan Parker (Yukon IFA Implementation Coordinator)

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 0925 hours. Welcomes were extended to all and especially to Danny C. Gordon, present as an alternate to Renie Arey, and to Jonathan Parker.

2. Review & Approval of Agenda

The Chair briefed members on the focus of the next two days. Basically:

- grizzly bear harvest allocation & management plan - outstanding details
- financial budget/workplan for 1994/95
- research proposals for IFA implementation funds - WMAC (NS) must be ready to table their submission to the IGC at the next April meeting

Agenda changes: # G 3 b Current Research Projects was moved forward to proceed any research discussions; item # 6 Log salvaging off Shingle Point was rescheduled to the first day of meeting.

MOTION: *Adoption of agenda with noted changes*

Moved: Donald Aviugana
Seconded: Don Russell
Motion carried

3. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings

January 11, 1994 Teleconference

MOTION: *Adoption of minutes of teleconference of January 11, 1994*

Moved: Don Russell
Seconded: Donald Aviugana
Motion carried

January 14, 1994 Teleconference

MOTION: *Adoption of minutes of teleconference of January 14, 1994*

Moved: Donald Aviugana
Seconded: Don Russell
Motion carried

4. Review of Action Items

October 18 & 19, 1993

ACTION # 26 - The Aklavik HTC and Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council have yet to meet. No individual Gwich'in have expressed interest to the Aklavik HTC to hunt grizzly bear.

ACTION # 28 - Brian Pelchat will make it a priority to meet with the Aklavik community and explain the point system as it relates to the grizzly bear harvest. Aklavik HTC's AGM is March 2. The community meeting with YTG should be before the spring hunting season.

ACTION # 5 - Secretariat is working with Dorothy Cooley in compiling assessment of YTG wildlife research projects funded by IFA implementation funds.

ACTION # 30 - RE: caribou/muskox interactions - the Porcupine Caribou Management Board would like to see traditional knowledge on this topic gathered to better assess the concerns of the users. Meanwhile the WMAC (NS) can deal with the dissemination of already documented information through its newsletter *Wildlife Watch*.

ACTION 94-02-01: *Secretariat will distribute results of interviews with Coppermine Elders on caribou abundance and decline to members*

ACTION # 34 - Bill Smith and Renie Arey have yet to follow up on the burning of fuels at Komakuk Beach this summer as part of the decommissioning field exercise.

ACTION # 47 - Herschel Island Elder Host Program - status for 1994/95 not known
All other actions achieved.

November 30, 1994

ACTION # 1 - Endorsement of Ivvavik National Park Management Plan - The Chair commented that the formulation of the Plan was a unique opportunity with regard to

WMAC(NS) and Parks Canada. After many public review consultative meetings and internal reviews, further changes were made to the plan at the final hour at the request of WMAC (NS). This exemplifies a new kind of relationship between government departments and co-management bodies, and particularly between indigenous peoples and Parks Canada. Bill Smith echoed these comments stating that it was a significant event that will impact across the country within Parks Canada.

December 13 & 14, 1994

ACTION 93-12-01 - Letter of recommendation on grizzly bear hunting harvest allocations from the Chair to the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources, Inuvialuit Game Council (with copy to the WMAC (NWT). Also added to this list was the Minister of Parks.

January 11, 1994

ACTION 94-01-01 - Elders' concern for changing water levels of north coast rivers - Secretariat to draft a letter to the Fisheries Joint Management Committee expressing this concern for consideration of possible research, using scientific and traditional knowledge, to provide information and understanding of this observation of water level decrease and implications to fish habitat.

January 14, 1994

no outstanding items

5. Correspondence

The Chair directed the members to correspondence from the WMAC (NWT) and specifically to the deduction of \$102K (Victoria Island Eider Study) from the list of research recommended to the IGC by CWS, Yellowknife.

6. Financial Report

1 & 2) Reports: Statements of income for the third quarter and the period ending February 15, 1994 were reviewed. Discussions focused on the high cost of the grizzly bear budget item, where these expenses had been incurred and how the figure had come to be so large. The Chair explained that while the figure was big, it was a true representation of the costs involved in receiving interpretation, clarification of rights and responsibilities and arriving at proposed solutions to the interjurisdictional management of grizzly bears and that these costs were taken on by WMAC (NS) in trying to assist the Aklavik HTC and YTG with grizzly bear bylaws and regulations for the Yukon North Slope. Had the other agencies assumed their responsibilities for the process, the budget item would have been much less.

Given that the council meets only three to four times in a year, and given that financial matters may need more frequent discussion, members requested teleconferences to discuss contracts and large budget expenses prior to their occurrence, albeit that the real cost of some activities or consultation are not known until after the fact.

ACTION: 94-02-02: Secretariat to amend the operating procedures of WMAC (NS) to ensure more thorough decision making on budget items.

3) 1994/95 Workplan/Budget: The secretariat led the members through the proposed workplan and budget. Bill Smith clarified that the committed monies from Parks Canada had come from Green Plan surplus. The Chair explained the budget for WMAC (NS) is not directly comparable to that of the WMAC (NWT) for a number of reasons; basically because within WMAC(NS)'s budget the costs of running an office and the secretariat costs must be covered while this is not the case with WMAC(NWT)'s budget, secondly, the WMAC (NWT) enjoys greater staff support from the GNWT than does the WMAC (NS) from the YTG. The Chair explained that the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan was a statutory commitment and while costs are high the direction given to WMAC (NS) was to make the Plan broad in its scope. As such, the costs reflect the extensive consultation, and attempts to secure commitments for endorsement from agencies and organizations prior to recommendation.

There was a discussion on the support provided by the Yukon Secretariat and the internal financial arrangements of IFA implementation funds within YTG. Specifically, the chair queried where the dollars for the research biologist position (Dorothy Cooley) were located within YTG's IFA line allocations. These funds were transferred to YTG via DIAND from the WMAC funding allocation three years ago.

MOTION: Pass proposed 1994/95 budget.

Moved: Don Russell
Seconded: Donald Aviugana
Motion carried

MOTION: Any committed surplus should go towards the expenses of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan - its implementation and long term research plan.

Moved: Brian Pelchat
Seconded: Don Russell
Motion carried

The 1994/95 project items were discussed as proposed. It was agreed to strike off the sport fishing workshop from the list as this item could be handled by Parks Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Fisheries Joint Management Committee.

ACTION 94-02-03: Brian Pelchat and Secretariat to determine if there are any undertakings or an MOU between YTG Fisheries and DFO.

Danny Gordon said the question of hunting muskox was a common discussion point in Aklavik. On the issue of enforcement, he explained that there have been beluga whaling

by-laws in place for two years but no one is present to enforce them and some by-laws are being broken.

ACTION 94-02-04: *For list of 1994/95 projects: strike sport fishing item from list; retitle Amendment to IFA to Legislative Regulatory Overhaul; scratch Wildlife Conservation & Management Plan - funding and make long term research plan, monitoring plan and workshops a first priority; and retitle IFA training workshop to IFA workshop.*

7. Proposal for log salvaging off Shingle Point

Prior to the arrival of Mark Zrum, the council briefly discussed the various concerns expressed to the Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) with respect to this proposal. These concerns were not apparent in the land use permit which had been given to the applicant. Danny C. Gordon mentioned that Dennis Pascal, the applicant, had twice been asked to attend an Aklavik Inuvialuit community meeting but the meeting had not yet happened. Issuance of a land use permit prior to a decision of the EISC on the application is in violation of the IFA (section 11(1)(b); 11(37)). The Environmental Impact Screening Committee was meeting concurrent with the WMAC (NS) meeting and had this proposal in hand. Further discussion was suspended until after DIAND's presentation.

8. Research

1) Update: Jennifer Staniforth, Yukon Government habitat mapping biologist, presented maps of the wildlife habitat mapping project for the Yukon North Slope and satellite imagery of the vegetation mapping. Wildlife habitat maps included local knowledge and scientific knowledge in its data base.

This vegetation mapping exercise, in association with past efforts of the Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks Canada could collectively provide for complete vegetation and terrain coverage for the Yukon North Slope. An accessible digitized data base would be a clear asset to wildlife management. Discussions identified this as an item to be included in the long term research plan recommended within the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation & Management Plan.

ACTION 94-02-04: *Secretariat to follow-up with Brian Pelchat on the transfer of \$50K surplus of habitat mapping project to the Council for the Conservation and Management Plan.*

ACTION 94-02-05: *Jennifer Staniforth or Jim Hawkings of CWS to demonstrate satellite vegetation mapping of Yukon North Slope to IGC, perhaps at September meeting in Dawson.*

Dorothy Cooley gave an update on the wolf and wolverine projects. A topographical map of the satellite fixes showed one pack clearly moving south wards, perhaps in association with the Porcupine Caribou herd. She is working with the Yukon Department of

Education on a project to allow use of the satellite fixes of the collared wolves in the classroom.

Don Russell gave an update on the CWS North Slope Work. The caribou body condition study, with finances and personal effort shared with US Fish & Wildlife, Alaska, has found good correlation between loss of the fetus and fat content of the mother. A computer model has been generated that considers the influence of snow conditions, mosquitoes or insect harassment, food quality and time spent feeding by the caribou, and how these factors relate to fall body condition and ultimately pregnancy and fetal development or loss. A caribou workshop is scheduled for early March in Prince George, B.C. The project is awaiting one more year of data. Additionally, CWS is working with the Yukon Department of Education to make the model user friendly and useful in the classroom. The breeding birds and habitat project is almost finished. Maps are being revised.

Bill Smith spoke to the Ivvavik National Park grizzly bear project. If there is no further funding provided, the collars will be taken off the bears this fall and a report on the findings will follow. Much of the effort has been spent mapping habitat and vegetation. A number of the findings can already be applied to recreational use of the Firth River for increased safety of people and bears. Campsite monitoring is being conducted and a number of campsites will be closed this year. Outfitters have concurred with their closure. Eventually a Firth River management plan will be prepared.

2) Future wildlife research funding - projects: As requested by members, the Secretariat reviewed and summarized areas identified in the Aklavik Inuvialuit Community Conservation Plan and in the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan as needing more focus, and past correspondence of wildlife research priorities of the IGC. The Chair mentioned that in the first 10 years of IFA implementation, \$16 million had been spent on wildlife research, representing 20% of the total implementation funds. Also listed were research proposals from the management agencies:

- CWS ecosystem monitoring using PCH as indicator \$ 40K
- YTG habitat inventory ground truthing \$ 43K
- YTG Muskox habitat use & foods \$ 30K

Danny C. Gordon stated that the Black Mountain area, identified in the Aklavik Plan as needing a sheep management plan, was in Gwich'in land and the Aklavik HTC does not have much say.

Discussion centred around the ecosystem focus of the two conservation plans and the monitoring proposal put forward by CWS. Discussions were suspended until the next meeting day.

Prior to adjourning for the day, word came back from the EISC meeting in Inuvik. Their discussion of the application to salvage logs at Shingle Point was deferred until community consultation had occurred.

MOTION: *To adjourn meeting*

Moved: Don Russell
Seconded: Donald Aviugana
Meeting adjourned at 4:25 hours.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1994

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:10 hours. He stated that the two major agenda items for the day's discussions were future wildlife research work and grizzly bear management details, in addition to presentations by guest speakers.

8. Research cont'd

2) Future research funding: Based on yesterday's discussions, the Chair highlighted three areas: CWS monitoring program (which could be for one year or five years); habitat mapping - a continuation of what is current; and water quality and flow of north coastal rivers. Given the identified need for and desire to commence a monitoring program for the Yukon North Slope, the need to initiate such a program through a multi-agency workshop, separate from the North Slope Conference was agreed upon by all members.

The Ivvavik National Park Resource Description and Analysis was suggested as a place to start with identified data gaps and monitoring needs. Parks Canada would be willing to devote funding to conduct such a workshop and bring people together.

ACTION 94-02-06: Year-end funds should be committed pursuant to the draft Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan to the workshop on ecosystem monitoring/research as the number one priority of the Long Term Ecosystem Research Plan recommended within the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and in agreement with the recommendation of the Aklavik Inuvialuit Community Conservation Plan.

ACTION 94-02-07: Don Russell and Bill Smith will formulate the workshop agenda, what will be monitored, who will attend, and how the different agencies will integrate their efforts. The proposed timing of the first workshop should be not later than June 15. Secretariat will track funding circumstances as things unfold regarding WMAC (NS) budget and available research funding.

ACTION 94-02-08: Bill Smith will task Vicki Sahanatien to spearhead the monitoring workshop, including suggestion of a resource person.

9. DIAND land use permitting with respect to the IFA

The Chair introduced Mark Zrum to the Council members. The Chair highlighted two specific areas of focus for the discussion: DIAND's process of land use application and

screening; and activities allowed under the IFA, such as the right to establish camps anywhere in the ISR without the need for a permit.

Mark Zrum explained that there was a distinct difference in the way in which affairs were conducted between DIAND Yukon and DIAND NWT. He described the routing of applications through Whitehorse, also the necessary routing through Inuvik and that the authority to issue permits came either from the engineer in Inuvik or the same in Whitehorse. From his point of view, communications between offices and time constraints in which DIAND must deal with applications posed problems. After this overview was given a question and answer discussion followed, much of it focused on the application and subsequent land use permit to salvage logs at Shingle Point. Some of the comments were:

- there have been no changes to DIAND's land use permitting process and regulations since 1977 and current methods are not always in compliance with the IFA requirements;
- Mark Zrum conceded that it was difficult to find a copy of the IFA in the Whitehorse office and there were none in the library in the DIAND Yukon region;
- Mark Zrum committed to updating DIAND's Land Use procedural policy, to advise his director of Renewable Resources and to arrange a working group session to stimulate communications between Land Use and the EISC, and the WMAC (NS).
- with regard to the log salvaging application and permit, it was pointed out that DIAND's permitting was against the EARP Guidelines Order, whereby major information gaps identified by reviewers of the application had to be considered in the permitting process and addressed in any Terms & Conditions of the permit; and that DIAND was not legally empowered to sign off on a land use permit until it had heard from the EISC which in this case it had not;
- Mark Zrum personally knew the process and was not aware why the correct process had not been followed with this particular application; he would be suspending the permit;
- there are two simple commandments from the IFA with regard to land use permits - 1) all land use applications for the Yukon North Slope go to the EISC for their review; and 2) no permit is issued until Land Use has received comment from the EISC.

ACTION 94-02-09: *Chair will send a letter to Mr. Ivanski, RDG, DIAND, explaining the apparent gross lack of understanding and knowledge of the IFA within the offices of DIAND Land Use, Yukon, explaining what the IFA specifies as a requirement of process of land use permits, and will include copies of the IFA and a map of the ISR. Another letter will be sent to Tom Beck, EISC, to inform him of the meeting discussions.*

10. Update on overhaul to Migratory Birds Convention

John Bailey, WMAC (NWT) briefed the members on the last six to seven years of efforts and events. A number of highlights were:

- a historical overview of the impetus for making changes to the Convention (legal spring harvest, 1979 Protocol between Canada & USA to remove restriction of closed

season, later failed, under James Bay Land Claim Agreement, IFA and all subsequent land claims agreements in Canada it is incumbent on Government of Canada to amend Convention, Greg Thompson of CWS commenced process of consultations to start work on amendment);

- Inuvialuit position and now Canadian position - 1) eliminate closed season for indigenous hunters, 2) allow non-indigenous subsistence in NWT, 3) allow non-indigenous sport hunters extended season in the North, i.e. NWT & Yukon, and 4) legalize murre hunt on east coast (although is not Inuvialuit interest rather Canada's);
- International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, a group comprised of biologists from USA, both state and federal, and some provincial and territorial biologists and agencies, developed a discussion paper of issues and did some negotiation to speed the process, WMAC (NWT) was asked to participate, one of roles of group has been to inform Americans why the amendments are needed in Canada and Alaska also;
- Canadian Government put together Aboriginal Committee to advise on Canadian amendments, there was not consensus on elements 2) & 3) (see above) and also strong opposition, WMAC (NWT) met with ITC and Inuvialuit & cleared up misunderstanding, Inuit position across Canada is as before (items 1,2,3 & 4), although some of groups of Aboriginal Committee are still in opposition to items 2) & 3)
- Department of Environment prepared position to Cabinet similar to the original four elements, seeking mandate to have Convention amendments negotiated
- with mandate in hand, External Affairs then will negotiate changes to Convention
- US Fish & Wildlife seeking similar positioning for approval for mandate
- North American Fish & Wildlife Meeting in Anchorage, in March, International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies attending, including John Bailey and three Inuvialuit
- WMAC (NWT) will continue lobby, once both countries have negotiation mandate, negotiations between two countries should get active by late summer
- generally there is consensus on elements which affect the area north of sixty degrees, i.e. aboriginal harvest, yet problematic further south; also the allowance to sell non-edible bird parts by indigenous hunters is problematic as it is not a land claim right so can not be argued on grounds of subsistence

11. Twinning

Bill Smith briefed members on status of twinning effort. Parks Canada management and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge management have been working together - channels of communication open for purposes of sharing efforts, i.e. river management plan for ANWR has usefulness to Firth River situation. Starting at operational level, prior to seeking linkage at higher bureaucratic level. Similar working arrangements for management of beluga whale, polar bear and bowhead whale. Discussions discontinued until arrival of Porcupine Caribou Management Board representatives.

8. Research (cont'd)

Members returned to the discussion of the usefulness of a digitized vegetation map comprised of the efforts of the CWS, YTG and Parks Canada and how close at hand such

a map could be and the need to incorporate traditional and scientific knowledge on habitat maps. Danny C. Gordon offered that snow geese have changed their habits - when they come from the Anderson River and Banks Island they used to use the flats of the Yukon North Slope; now they go inland.

Dorothy Cooley reported that it had been understood that GNWT would conduct a wolverine carcass collection project in Aklavik. This was not the case and she proposed conducting such a study to determine if there is a problem of overharvest. She also stated that she is waiting to meet with wolf biologist Bob Hayes to consider the merits of further study of one wolf pack apparently traveling with the Porcupine Caribou herd.

ACTION 94-02-10: Dorothy Cooley will submit a cost proposal for a wolverine carcass collection project in Aklavik for consideration for future IFA funding proposals. Dorothy Cooley will submit a cost proposal for further wolf monitoring if deemed useful.

Water quality and water flow are recurrent areas of concern expressed by Aklavik residents. There are water flow gauges on the Babbage and Firth rivers and more than 25 years of data. Water quality work has not been done but there is an opportunity in that a researcher is interested in the springs at the mouth of the Firth River and could be interested in focusing on rivers elsewhere on the Yukon North Slope.

ACTION 94-02-11: Bill Smith will follow-up on the opportunity of a researcher in the area with DFO and FJMC and get back to the Secretariat.

ACTION 94-02-12: Secretariat will write FJMC making inquiries as to any plans for monitoring changes in water flow and quality, and informing them of the proposed long term monitoring program for the North Slope.

Parks Canada will be conducting a raptor survey in Ivvavik this summer, in conjunction with the surveys throughout the Yukon conducted once every five years.

12. Harvest Study

The Chair gave an overview of the situation. The IGC has requested that YTG pay for the Harvest Study cost overrun of \$48.1 K. The Harvest Study costs \$300,000 annually. This is twice the initial cost estimate. In the past, some had expressed hope that the Harvest Study be funded through a consolidated line item allocating IFA implementation funds, but this has not developed and the dollars continue to flow through the agencies. The YTG has not contributed to the costs historically.

1) YTG feels that WMAC (NS), being the co-management body, should recommend the priorities for how IFA research funds are spent. 2) YTG's wildlife research allocation is \$133 K, if \$48 K is removed as a contribution to the Harvest Study that represents close to 50% of the budget and this is not in line with the appropriation of wildlife research funds within other agencies, as well, the Yukon harvest is modest relative to the NWT

harvest and funding provisions must also be made for the Dawson regional biologist's salary.

Danny C. Gordon asked how much was spent in Aklavik for the Harvest Study - it was reported to be about \$20 K annually per field worker. Who benefits in the long run? - wildlife management needs this information and in matters of financial compensation to harvesters this information is important. Danny C. Gordon offered that about 30% of Aklavik residents are not active harvesters. He suggested that another approach would be to pay hunters to report. Some people may feel embarrassed if they have not harvested anything.

ACTION 94-02-13: Chair to determine what funding is available to cover cost-over-run of Harvest Study through discussions with the IGC and Joint Secretariat, and to determine what is the annual amount expected of YTG and what this would translate into as a cost per animal harvested in the Yukon.

13. North Slope Conference

The rescheduled dates for the conference are September 14, 15 and 16, 1994 in Dawson City. The IGC has endorsed Jim Fulton as their first choice of the conference chair, with a second choice of John Fraser.

11. Twinning (cont'd)

The two guests needing no introduction, the Chair invited Doug Urqhart and Albert Peter to speak to the recent developments in the twinning effort by the PCMB. A circular was passed to members, "Twinning Ivvavik National Park and ANWR". Some of the points presented by Albert and Doug were:

- "twinning" had been recommended by the Government of Canada in establishing Ivvavik National Park
- effort is to achieve greater protection for the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd, advancing on a working level prior to a political effort
- Vuntut National Park has been included in the overall proposal for twinning
- to build a broad base approach, First Nations should be involved in working relations through their Chief and council
- PCMB will be making a presentation at the Protected Areas workshop in Ottawa in April, 1994
- the procedural mechanics to arrive at an international cross-border protected area are not clear, there are other cross-border parks where a precedent has been set and these cases are being reviewed - looking for best and quickest process
- twinning effort will serve to highlight need for Wilderness Designation of ANWR, will demonstrate Canada's interest and need to manage area jointly
- PCMB is looking for demonstrated support by co-management bodies and wildlife councils through resolutions
- would like to use North Slope Conference for public announcement of twinning effort
- in 1995, Canada is hosting the Final Arctic Environmental Strategy, it would serve as a perfect time for making a political statement

Albert and Doug spoke of past funding from DIAND \$17 K to send Inuvialuit representatives to Washington to lobby in support of protecting ANWR. It was one of the most effective lobbying tools, yet the PCMB can no longer get such funding. Last spring, the IGC sent Darcy Gordon. A road tour costs \$10,000 per individual. The next road show is in April, in Florida.

ACTION 94-02-14: Pass resolution in support of twinning Ivvavik and ANWR and in support of ANWR achieving wilderness designation.

The Chair updated Albert and Doug on a number of topics: the status of Volume 2 of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation & Management Plan; the future plan for an ecological monitoring workshop; and IGC's perspective on further funding for Porcupine Caribou herd research.

14. Muskox - Caribou Interactions

There was discussion around the matter of whether muskox are endemic to the area of Ivvavik National Park. While this is a concern for Parks Canada, it is not a matter within the IFA and does not affect the rights of the Inuvialuit to harvest muskox for subsistence purposes. The Inuvialuit have no problem with muskox presence, rather want some benefit, would like to harvest them. There was an identified need for a thorough treatment of traditional knowledge of the historic occurrence of muskox in the area.

ACTION 94-02-15: Chair will speak with John Nagy and request they include Aklavik and Inuvik in their coverage of elders interviews and caribou-muskox interactions.

PCMB expressed interest in obtaining caribou harvest information for Aklavik from the harvest study.

15. Ivvavik National Park

- 1) Communications: There was nothing to report as far as developments as Gary Pittman, Communications Officer, has been focused on Aklavik National Park.
- 2) Sport Fishing Regulations: Parks Canada has retracted the recommendation of reducing the dolly varden charr harvest from three to two - the allowable sport fish harvest is again three.
- 3) Komakuk Reclamation: The Inuvialuit were successful in their arbitration case against DIAND. The materials must be removed from the beach, not buried, but it is not clear who pays. The Government of Canada must decide this. The transfer to Parks Canada is expected by March 31, 1994.
- 4) Inuvik Office: Parks Canada is now part of the Department of Heritage Canada. Its internal structure has been reorganized and the position for Chief, Ecosystems has been terminated. It is not clear when the proposed Canada-wide reorganization will be implemented.

The Chair expressed great thanks to Bill Smith for his active involvement in WMAC (NS). Bill Smith brought a thoroughness to the council and one of his great strengths was his factual consistency with the IFA. Many thanks again Bill.

16. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Chair briefed the members on the status of the plan. Volume 1, as presented to members in the meeting binder was available for review comment. The species status reports of Volume 2 were back on line after the computer file was scrambled and slowed progress. The balance of Volume 2 will be completed by late March. The Chair apologized for the timing.

17. Protected Areas Conference

The Chair has been asked to attend the conference and he has agreed to go if funding can be found. Albert Peter said he would also be attending. Peter Lamb is hoping someone from Aklavik will go and speak to the Inuvialuit experience with Ivvavik National Park.

ACTION 94-02-16: Chair will inform Aklavik HTC of request from Parks Canada.

18. Next Quarterly Meeting:

May 5 and 6, 1994 in Inuvik.

19. Grizzly Bear Management Plan

A press release from the WMAC (NWT) following their February meeting noted the pending release of the Grizzly Bear Management Plan for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

ACTION 94-02-17: Secretariat to attend to expected date of release of management plan and to obtain copy of the final draft.

ACTION: 94-02-18: Aklavik HTC to provide Secretariat with copies of resolutions regarding grizzly bear harvest sub-allocation of quota.

The YTG wants compulsory reporting on grizzly bear harvest. They will provide the forms and assistance to the Renewable Resources officer. They will also assist in setting up the point system for grizzly bear harvest this spring. A letter from the Aklavik HTC acknowledging their intent to use the point system would be useful.

ACTION 94-02-19: Aklavik HTC will write to Don Toews, Director of Fish and Wildlife, requesting YTG administer grizzly bear tags in the Yukon North Slope east of the Babbage River under the point system.

Brian Pelchat circulated a proposal for grizzly bear hunting regulation change. It was discussed that the regulation could mirror the bylaw or be as proposed last October by WMAC (NS). If the point system is to be endorsed, then this may need consideration and acknowledgment within the Yukon regulation. In any case, the by-law is needed for Area

B for the Aklavik Grizzly Bear hunting area. The matter of enforcement of the by-law and the Yukon regulation was discussed and concluded that the matter was not conclusive nor clear.

ACTION 94-02-20: *Secretariat to provide Aklavik HTC with one option for bylaw, as previously proposed.*

MOTION: To adjourn meeting.

Moved: Brian Pelchat

Seconded: Bill Smith

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 hours.