



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES

WMAC(NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

**Whitehorse, Yukon
September 27-28, 1999**

September 27, 1999

- Present:** Lindsay Staples - Chair
Joan Eamer - Canadian Wildlife Service - Member- Government of Canada
Danny C. Gordon - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Brian Pelchat - Chief, Regional Management - Member -Yukon Territorial Government
Alan Fehr - Parks Canada- Alternate - Government of Canada
Aileen Horler - WMAC(NS) Secretariat
- Guests:** Ron Larsen, Chief Park Warden, Ivvavik National Park, Parks Canada, Inuvik
Anne Munier, Research Assistant, Northern Climate Exchange
Harvey Jessup, Harvest Management Biologist, YTG Renewable Resources
Catherine Pinard, YTG Renewable Resources
Jim Hawkings, Canadian Wildlife Service, Whitehorse
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A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. Herbert Felix was welcomed as the new member for the Inuvialuit Game Council.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda. Among the items that need to be covered during the meeting are updates on a number of projects and initiatives such as the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. The action items of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan need to be reviewed. Unexpended funds in the wildlife research programs budget need to be considered.

Dave Ladret will attend the meeting to discuss the review of the Herschel Island Management Plan. Phil Merchant will be giving a presentation on the drug used to capture the muskox on the Yukon North Slope in April. Joan Eamer reported Anne Munier will be able to attend the meeting to give a brief presentation on the Aklavik HTC's camp which was run this summer. At Brian Pelchat's suggestion, a presentation on the Department of Renewable Resources' Co-management web site was arranged for the following day.

Motion

to adopt the agenda, as revised.

Moved: Herbert Felix
Seconded: Joan Eamer
Motion carried

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of May 28-31, 1999 meeting

Members reviewed the minutes of the May 28-31, 1999 meeting. The following changes were suggested:

page 7 – In reference to action 98-12-01, a further action is needed which reflects the need for Dorothy to expand her report to include other aspects of the ground survey method used in Danny C. Gordon's survey.

page 12 - add 'wetlands' to the description of the project being done by Jim Hawkings on the Old Crow Flats
- change the sentence which begins 'The Northern Contaminants Exchange proposal' to 'The proposal for a Northern Climate Exchange (submitted by Yukon College and the Yukon Government) to Environment Canada and Natural Resources Canada's Climate Change Action Fund, is going through the final stages of approval.'

page 14 – change the name Peters to Peter

page 20 – change the last sentence in the first paragraph referring to the Sustain project to read.... 'The report can be viewed on the internet at www.taiga.net.sustain, following to link to the library.'

page 24 – in reference to the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan change the second sentence to read.... ‘Members agreed to those changes suggested by Mike...’

Motion

To accept the minutes of May 28-31, 1999 meeting, with changes as recorded.

Moved: Brian Pelchat

Seconded: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried

D. Review of Action Items of May 28-31, 1999 meeting

Outstanding

Action 98-12-09: Dorothy Cooley will prepare a summary of the actions and funding required to produce a final version of the muskox school unit. Dorothy is to send the summary to Alan Fehr for his review.

Outstanding.

Current Items

Action 99-05-01: With respect to the data that has been collected on Herschel Island over the last ten years, Sandy Koep will send it to Whitehorse to be entered and will approach Aurora College to see if it a student is available to do the analysis of it as a independent study.

Retire. The issue of management and access to data needs to be addressed in the review of the Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan. Members commented that this is also a topic which needs to be considered within the broader issues of support for Park’s staff.

Action 99-05-02: WMAC will write to Duane Smith and Nellie Cournoyea suggesting a workplan for the translation of the COPE tapes be developed as soon as possible. The letter will convey the Council’s commitment to contribute financially to the project once it is know how the funds will be used.

Completed. The Chair reported that this issue was addressed in the briefing note that he prepared for the IGC’s meeting in Holman last June. There is a need for a workplan to manage the budget and delineate the work that is to be done. Danny C. Gordon added that this topic was discussed at the last IGC meeting and that there was a general recognition that someone needs to take charge of the project.

Action 99-05-03: WMAC(NS) will write to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee to encourage them to continue to work with the Yukon Government to develop a garbage management plan for Shingle Point, in order to determine the most effective way to deal with current and future problems. The letter is also to convey the Council's recognition that the issue of garbage management at Shingle Point is a community issue and not one that falls within the Council's mandate. A copy of the letter is to be sent to the Inuvialuit Game Council.

Completed. Joan Eamer distributed copies of a questionnaire that she prepared on Shingle Point garbage for the HTC to use this summer. Joan added that she was not sure if any of the questionnaires were completed.

Action 98-05-04: Dorothy Cooley will expand the report she wrote on Danny C. Gordon's survey to include other aspects of the ground survey method, such as the aspects of community-based involvement and interest, as well as the Council's perspectives.

Outstanding.

Action 99-05-05: Alan Fehr will pursue how to best inform the appropriate schools about the muskox school unit and suggest ways to integrate the unit into to current curriculum.

Outstanding. Alan reported that he still hasn't seen a copy of the school unit. He needs to get a copy from Dorothy before he can suggest ways to integrate the unit into to current curriculum.

Action 99-05-06: WMAC(NS) will write an further letter to Jane Stewart, Minister of DIAND, Dec 23, 1998, regarding the need to amend section 19-3 of the Yukon Act. The letter of Dec 23, 1998 is to be attached. A copy of the letter is to be sent to the IRC or Chair of the Implementation Committee, as appropriate.

Retire. This is an important issue that still needs to be resolved. The repeal of 19-3 of the Yukon Act is not being considered in the revisions to the Yukon Act which are currently underway. Brian Pelchat reported that YTG Renewable Resources has been looking into this matter and will continue to pursue it.

The Chair reported that he, Duane Smith and Norm Snow are trying to arrange a meeting with Yukon Government representatives to discuss this issue. The three of them are also going to try to meet with officials in the Minister's in Ottawa in two weeks' time. The Chair added that the repeal of 19-3 is also on the agenda of the upcoming IFA Implementation Co-ordination meeting.

Action 99-05-07 : WMAC(NS) will contact the organizers of the Beaufort Sea Conference to convey the Council's ideas for a Yukon North Slope coastal zone planning workshop and to determine if such a workshop could be held as part of the conference.

Completed. The Chair reported that there wasn't a suitable time available at the conference to hold a workshop. The proposal now is to hold a one-day workshop in Whitehorse.

Action 99-05-08: The Secretariat will submit an abstract for posters on the Council and the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan to the organizers of the Beaufort Sea Conference.

Completed.

Action 99-05-09: The Secretariat will provide Council members with information on the Beaufort Sea Conference, as it becomes available.

Completed.

Action 99-05-10: The Secretariat will arrange for the Council to receive a briefing at its September meeting regarding ANWR and the 1002 lobbying effort.

Retire. The Secretariat reported that no one was available to come to the meeting. Brian Pelchat distributed a written report titled 'Obtaining Permanent Protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska'. Members agreed that a briefing is no longer needed as the report provides enough information on ANWR and the 1002 lobbying effort.

Action 99-09-01: The Secretariat will distribute copies of the report titled 'Obtaining Permanent Protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska' to members.

Action 99-05-11: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to the Inuvialuit Game Council suggesting that the Wildlife Act Amendments Working Group be re-established in order to initiate the follow-up work that needs to be done in relation to the amendments.

Completed. The Chair reported that this issue was addressed in the briefing note that he prepared for the IGC's meeting in Holman last June.

Action 99-05-12: Alan Fehr will send a copy of Parks Canada's organizational chart for the Western Arctic to Brian Pelchat and the WMAC(NS).

Completed.

Action 99-05-13: Brian Pelchat will send a copy of the Yukon Government's organizational chart for the renewable Resource Department to Alan Fehr.

Completed.

Action 99-05-14: Council members will send their comments to Andrea Hoyt on her draft Yukon North Slope coastal zone planning report, by the end of June, 1999.

Retire. Members agreed that the Secretariat should contact Andrea and request a copy of the revised report along with copies of any other material she obtained while doing her research. The Secretariat is to use Andrea's paper to develop background materials to be used at the coastal zone planning workshop.

Action 99-09-02 : The Secretariat is to prepare background materials to be made available at the Yukon North Slope coastal zone planning workshop.

J. New Business

1. Aklavik HTC Culture and Science Camp

The Chair welcomed Anne Munier, Research Assistant, Northern Climate Exchange. Joan Eamer reported that she had been contacted by Billy Archie, Resource Person with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee early in the summer with a request to assist with the HTC's Culture and Science camp. The HTC had received funds from the IRC to put on a summer camp for youth and Billy needed someone who could teach the science component. Anne Munier who has an intern position with Joan agreed to go to Aklavik and participate in the camp. Joan reported that the camp was a success and that the HTC is hoping it will be an ongoing event.

Anne reported that there were two sessions of the camp, with a total of seventeen youths, ages 10 to 15, participating. Anne worked with Billy Archie and two elders from Aklavik. Subjects covered included wilderness survival and safety. Some participants had an opportunity to go beluga hunting. A plant collection was started. The elders told stories related to the activities and Anne taught the science component. There was a good use of scientific and traditional knowledge. There were many good lessons in responsibility and co-operation. Everyone worked well together and overall the camp was a success. Anne prepared a report summarizing the camp's activities which she will send to the Council's office.

The Chair commented that there is a lot of interest in the communities for these kinds of camps. The other HTC's should be sent a copy of Anne's report. Joan added that the HTC is hoping to prepare a small package of materials to be used in future years. Environment Canada will be able to provide some support for the development of these materials.

Action 99-09-03 : The Secretariat will call Billy Archie to encourage him to forward Ann Munier's report on the Aklavik HTC's Culture and Science camp to the other HTC's.

Action 99-09-04: An item on how the Council can contribute to summer camp initiatives will be added to the agenda of the March 2000 meeting.

I. Old Business

1. Inuvilaut Harvest Study

The Chair welcomed Harvey Jessup, Harvest Management Biologist, YTG Renewable Resources and Catherine Pinard, also with YTG Renewable Resources.

The Chair reviewed a number of activities related to the IHS to date. The Statistics Canada analysis recognized that a lot of money has been spent on data collection, but the quality of that data varies. For example, it is very good for the larger species but not reliable for a number of the smaller ones or species that are harvested in large numbers (fish, waterfowl). A lot of effort has gone into getting information from as many harvesters as possible but some of the “superharvesters” are not reporting. As a result, changes have been made to harvester listing. There are now two lists – active and reserve. The HTC's have the responsibility to put the lists together and to review them each year.

Concerns have been raised over the poor communication regarding the Harvest Study in general. A lot of work goes into collecting the data but the level of communication and community education needs improvement. Information is going one way only from the communities to the IHS manager, Management Committee and Joint Secretariat. The communities are not seeing reports and there is a poor understanding of the purpose and results of the Harvest Study.

There is some debate over the range of species that are being surveyed. One community wants to continue collecting data on all species while others think only data on key species should be collected. The IHS database program has been improved although some debate remains as to whether the data should be input at a central or community level.

Last month there was a two-day workshop in Inuvik to discuss the IHS. The workshop included representatives from the HTC's, but many of the agencies were not able to attend. Under the IFA, the HTC's play a critical role with respect to the Harvest Study and they want to have a stronger say in how it is run. A model was developed based on comments made at the workshop. The findings of the workshop are to be used to move forward with changes.

The Management Committee is hoping to have modified harvest study running by early 2000. The expectation is to move the IHS from being strictly a recall survey to a program with several different components.

The Chair distributed a document titled ‘Time for a Change- An Inuvialuit Harvest Study for the New Decade’ (September 1999) which was prepared by the IHS Management Committee reflecting the findings of the August IHS workshop and the views of the participants. The Chair drew members attention to the diagram titled recommended blueprint. It is proposed that the recall survey no longer be conducted monthly. Instead it will be done seasonally, targeting key seasonal species harvested. There will be some

community variation with regards to dates and species. Any species for which data is available from other sources, such as tags or fur sales, will be left out. Incidental harvest information and anecdotal information will be pursued through a different mechanism which is proposed as being an annual custom survey. There will be fixed time projects such as beluga monitoring and spring waterfowl surveys which will be conducted by putting field workers in camps. HTC's will be contracted by the Joint Secretariat to carry out all the collection work. The HTC's will be responsible for hiring the field workers. All the proposed work must be carried out through existing budgets. From a financial perspective, the IHS will try to do more with the funds that it receives.

The Harvest Study Co-ordinator position is to be replaced by a Program Manager. Duties will include overall responsibility for the management and collection of data from all sources as well as for the communication and education programs. The Management Committee wants to get harvesters more involved in collection and monitoring. A broader involvement is needed on the part of the harvesters which goes beyond just providing kill data. The collection of harvest information has to be community driven in order to get accurate information.

Harvey Jessup asked if the Management Committee is considering another meeting with agencies. What is the best way for agencies to provide comments on blueprint? It would be useful to have the agencies altogether to discuss the options as opposed to submitting separate written comments. The role of sponsoring agencies, as co-management partners need to be recognised, discussed and clarified.

Concerns were raised about several operational issues, the IHS's relationships with other agencies, the relationship between program manager and HTC's and agencies, the availability of data to co-management bodies and agencies, and the study's budget. It was recognised that there is a need to improve communication so people know what IHS funds are being used for. A discussion was held regarding the hunters having to take some responsibility for the reporting of the data. Data collection has always been costly as so much time is taken to locate hunters. The hunter should have the responsibility of reporting what has been taken.

The Management Committee needs a preliminary sense through the co-management boards as to the level of general support for the new proposal. Members agreed that the Joint Secretariat should proceed with the hiring of a new Project Manager for the IHS. The general model will stay the same and there is a need to get started on the work right away.

Danny C. Gordon suggested that each HTC be asked how they proposed to handle the collection of data. The Chair agreed to bring forward Danny's suggestion to the Management Committee.

Action 99-09-05: The Secretariat will distribute copies of Statistics Canada report on the Inuvialuit Harvest Study to Joan Eamer and Harvey Jessup.

2. Yukon North Slope Satellite Images and Poster Production

The Chair welcomed Jim Hawkings, Canadian Wildlife Service. Jim showed members a printed version of the satellite image, as it will be used in the North Slope poster. He reported that the poster will have 11 text boxes with accompanying photos as well as the satellite image. The poster is currently in production at Aasman Design.

D. Review of Action Items of May 28-31, 1999 meeting (continued)

Action 99-05-15: The Secretariat will inform Dave Ladret of the dates of the Council's September meeting in Whitehorse.

Completed.

Action 99-05-16: Council members send their initial comments on the review of Ivvavik National Park Management Plan to the Secretariat by June 1, 1999. The Secretariat will forward the comments to Hillarie Greening.

Completed. The Chair reported that he provided comments on the scoping document to Hillarie this summer.

Action 99-05-17: The Secretariat will send an updated version of the action items from the draft Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan to Hillarie Greening.

Completed.

Action 99-05-18: The Secretariat will send Sandy Koep a copy of the draft Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

Completed.

Action 99-05-19: Member will provide the Secretariat with their comments on the draft Term Report by June 14.

Completed.

Action 99-05-20: WMAC (NS) will write to the Inuvialuit Game Council to suggest that the IGC arrange a meeting with the Inupiat to consider a harvest allocation of muskoxen for the Inuvialuit, based on a percentage of the total allowable harvest for the entire North Slope population (Yukon and Alaska). The meeting should include representatives from the Yukon Government, WMAC(NS), Parks Canada and Alaskan biologists.

Completed.

Action 99-05-21: The draft Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan will be reviewed by the Council during its September meeting.

Outstanding.

Action 99-05-22: WMAC(NS) will write to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee to determine if there is any interest in considering the land management options for the special areas on the Yukon North Slope which are identified in the Aklavik Community Conservation Plan.

Outstanding.

Action 99-05-23: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to the organizers of the Sustainability of Arctic Communities Project to express the Council's support for the renewal proposal that the project is submitting to the National Science Foundation.

Completed.

Action 99-05-24: The Secretariat will contact the President of the Yukon Fish and Game Association to see if he can attend the next Council meeting in order to brief members on the interests of Yukon resident hunters to hunt grizzly bears on the North Slope.

Retired. It was decided that the Chair would discuss this issue directly with the President of the Yukon Fish and Game Association.

Action 99-05-25: The Secretariat will write to Marsha Branigan to convey the Council's suggestions for changes to the draft pamphlet titled 'Co-management of Grizzly Bears in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region'.

Completed.

September 28, 1999

Present: Lindsay Staples - Chair
Joan Eamer - Canadian Wildlife Service - Member- Government of Canada
Danny C. Gordon - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Brian Pelchat - Chief, Regional Management - Member -Yukon Territorial Government
Alan Fehr - Parks Canada- Alternate - Government of Canada
Aileen Horler - WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Guests: Hillarie Greening – District Planner, Parks Canada, Inuvik
Ron Larsen, Chief Park Warden, Ivvavik National Park, Parks Canada, Inuvik
Verena Hardtke, Administrative and Planning Co-ordinator, YTG Renewable Resources
Cody Miller, Website Technician Intern, YTG Renewable Resources
Dave Ladret, Special Projects Officer, Yukon Government, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch
Doug Olynyk, Historic Sites Co-ordinator, Yukon Government, Heritage Branch.
Phil Merchant, Yukon Government, Fish and Wildlife Branch.

E. Correspondence

Members reviewed the correspondence in the meeting binder. Correspondence included the following items:

- A letter from the Inuvialuit Game Council to Eric Fairclough regarding the type of immobilization drug used during the recent muskox surveys on the Yukon North Slope.

Members expressed their concern regarding the general tone of the letter and the apparent lack of support for the project. There is a clear need for an improvement in communications from all sides. The concerns expressed in the letter could have been answered by Dorothy Cooley if she had been contacted. The issue of the lost dart was discussed at a public meeting in Aklavik in April, within weeks of its loss. However only those that attended the meeting were given a briefing about the issue and the

IGC was never informed that the briefing occurred. There is a need to ensure that there is a communications follow-up to public meetings. The WMAC(NS) newsletter would be a good communications tool for describing what topics are discussed at public meetings. In addition, there is a need for the preparation of an outline of actions and protocols to be used when problems such as the lost dart arise.

Action 99-09-06 : WMAC(NS) will draft a communications protocol, addressing the need to establish clear lines of communication between all parties responsible for resources management on the Yukon North Slope. The draft is to be circulated in November so that it can be discussed and recommended at the Council's December meeting.

- A letter from Kelly Olson requesting clarification of the exemption from screening of projects which have been initiated and approved by bodies pursuant to the IFA.
- A letter from Kelly Olson regarding the amendments to the Yukon wildlife regulations to conform with the IFA. Brian Pelchat reported that the Yukon Government will shortly be engaging a lawyer to do the necessary preliminary work. The working group format will continue to be used to develop the regulation changes.
- A notification of the Millennium Trek being coordinated by the Porcupine Caribou Management Board.
- A letter from Jim McIntyre regarding the application of the Wilderness Tourism Act.

Members recognised the need for consistency in the licencing requirements between the two territories. The requirements of the Yukon Wilderness Tourism Act need to be clarified for local interests. A briefing in the communities by the Parks Branch personnel would be very useful. There needs to be a licencing outlet in Inuvik. It is possible to develop an agreement for enforcement and licencing under the intergovernmental accord. A working group could be formed to address a number of issues related to guiding.

Action 99-09-07 : WMAC(NS) will write to the YTG Parks Branch regarding the Yukon Wilderness Tourism Act. The letter will convey the Council's discussion on the Act including the need for the Branch to look at the consistency in the licencing requirements between the two territories, the clarification of the requirements to local interests and the need for a licencing outlet in Inuvik.

- A letter regarding the Yukon's Development Assessment Process.

Action 99-09-08 : WMAC(NS) will forward the letter dated June 28, 1999 regarding the Yukon's Development Assessment Process to the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Environmental Impact Screening Committee and Review Board.

I. Old Business (continued)

3. Herschel Island Territorial Park

The Chair welcomed Dave Ladret, Special Projects Officer with the Yukon Government's Parks and Outdoor Recreation Office and Doug Olynyk, Historic Sites Coordinator with the Heritage Branch.

Dave commented that as Sandy Koep had recently resigned her position a regular season end report is not available. Dave reported three new rangers were hired for the 1999 season. Only one cruise ship stopped at the island this year. Repairs to all bear damage were completed. The park did not run an elderhost program this summer but hopes to next year. There were problems with the satellite phone. The government will recruit this winter to fill Sandy's position.

In reference to the review of the Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan, Dave reported that the first step has been to develop a communications strategy. The Parks Branch felt that it was better to wait until the fall to begin the consultations. After the initial set of meetings a newsletter will be produced which outlines all the issues that are identified. The plan will next go out to wider review. When asked if the Parks Branch is able to develop a scoping document which would lay out the component parts of the process, Dave responded that he is willing to develop one for the Herschel Island review. Hillarie Greening agreed to send Dave a copy of the scoping document that Parks Canada has just completed.

The Chair reported that the Council has prepared a list of issues that should be considered in the review. It is hoped that the review will see major changes to the plan, not just a simple updating. Council members are committed to full participation in the process. The implementation of the management plan also needs to be addressed either as part of the plan or as a separate document. Implementation actions and responsibilities need to be identified. The Council has some concerns regarding the management capacity of the Inuvik office. Members have heard reports of poor communication between the Inuvik and Whitehorse offices. The management plan has to have the implementation capacity. There is no point in having a management plan that can't be implemented effectively.

Action 99-09-09 : WMAC(NS) will forward the list of issues related to Herschel Island Territorial Park that have been identified by Council members to Dave Ladret.

It was agreed that open and regular communications are required between the Council and the Parks Branch.

In reference to the Wilderness Tourism Licencing Act, the Chair informed Dave that local people effected by the new Act need to be better informed. There needs to be a meeting in Inuvik and Aklavik to inform tour operators. The Act is jurisdictionally complex and needs clarification at the local level.

In reference to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee's cabin on Herschel Island, it was suggested that an M.O.U. be developed which lays out the expectations of all parties. Alan Fehr added that this type of agreement was put in place for the cabin at Komakuk.

A discussion was held regarding the maintenance of Inuvialuit gravesites on Herschel Island. There is a need to establish who will represent the interests of the Inuvialuit. It was suggested that the IRC or the Aklavik Community Corporation should be dealing with it. Families also need to be involved.

Action 99-09-10 : WMAC(NS) will write to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Aklavik Community Corporation regarding the restoration and maintenance of Inuvialuit gravesites on Herschel Island.

F. Financial Report - September 1999 statement

The Secretariat reviewed the September 1999 statement. The deficit showing under the North Slope Atlas will be recovered through wildlife programs funds once the atlas is complete. Much of the money allocated to projects funded by the Council remains unspent. Administrative costs are as per usual for this time of year. Members requested clarification on the balance remaining in the fiscal year. The free balance needs to be shown more clearly.

G. Chair's Report

The Chair reported that he has been spending a lot of time in Inuvialuit Harvest Study Management Committee meetings. As reported earlier the Committee will be meeting again this week.

The Beaufort Sea 2000 Conference was held in Inuvik earlier in the month. The conference went very well, with strong participation from the communities. There was a lot of opportunity to discuss how co-management could be done better while recognising that overall co-management is working well. There was good youth participation at the conference. A youth session should be considered for inclusion at the next North Slope Conference.

In reference to section 19-3 of the Yukon Act, the Chair commented that he is hoping to have the opportunity to meet with government officials in both Ottawa and Whitehorse to discuss the changes that are needed.

H. Members' Report

a) Joan Eamer

Joan distributed a document titled 'Canadian Wildlife Service- Summary of Activities Within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, 1998/99'.

The draft proceedings from the Fourth Annual Gathering of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Society have been prepared by the Aurora Research Institute and will be distributed to participants soon, along with the action items. Kent Sinnott begins work next week as the Society's Co-ordinator. Kent has been hired under a Science Horizons intern position. Joan reported that Kaktovik and ANWR are interested in participating as partners in the society.

The Sustainability of Arctic Communities project had a very successful meeting in Old Crow in September. Billy Archie and Danny A. Gordon both attended from Aklavik. The decision regarding the renewal funding should be known by mid-October.

Joan, Don Russell, Brad Griffiths and Gary Kofinas received funding from the Climate Change Action fund for a caribou and climate change project. Some of the funding will go to the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Society to assess the applicability of the society's approach to monitoring to other areas.

The ITEX plot on Herschel Island was successfully established during the summer. There is also a plot at Wolf Creek. A Canadian tundra ecosystem monitoring network workshop has been proposed for November in Yellowknife. Joan commented that it would be valuable to have someone familiar with Herschel Island attend the workshop.

An intern in Joan's office was able to assist the Aklavik HTC earlier in the summer to develop a list of the HTC's responsibilities under the various management plans related to the ISR.

b) Brian Pelchat

The Yukon Government held a public forum the previous week regarding the proposed amendments to the Yukon Act. As previously discussed, changes to section 19-3 are not included in the amendments.

Sandy Koep has resigned as the Chief Ranger at Herschel Island Territorial Park. Inuvialuit in the delta communities will be eligible to apply for the position due to a specific amendment to the Yukon Hire policy.

New laws are coming into place for hunting on the Dempster Highway. No one will be allowed to shoot within 500m of the road. Snowmachines cannot be used before Nov 1. The same rules will apply to all hunters. The Renewable Resources Department will be producing a guide, which should be ready, next month.

Art Hoole, the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Branch, is resigning his position. There will be an acting Director until a new one can be hired.

Action 99-09-11 : WMAC(NS) will write to Art Hoole to thank him for his support of the Council and Inuvialuit interests during his time as Director of YTG's Fish and Wildlife Branch.

Danny C. Gordon and Herbert Felix both commented that they had nothing to report at the time.

J. New Business (continued)

2. Yukon Renewable Resources' Co-management website

The Chair welcomed Verena Hardtke, Administrative and Planning Co-ordinator, YTG Renewable Resources and Cody Miller, Website Technician Intern, YTG Renewable Resources.

Brian Pelchat gave members some background information on the development of the website. Over the past number of years the Renewable Resources Department has developed a number of management plans with the First Nations and the Renewable Resource Councils. The website is being developed as a way to keep track of everyone's responsibilities and commitments under the different management plans. Part of the website is password protected but it does include general information available to any interested party.

Verena and Cody gave members an on-line demonstration of the website. There are sections on Yukon Traditional Territories, Management Plans, Special Management Guidelines as well as a commitments database. There are links to other sights and a listing of contact agencies and Renewable Resource Councils. It will be possible to search action items and recommendations. Information is available on the IFA and WMAC(NS).

Members were asked how they think the Council making use of the website and what they would like to see as a part of it. A suggestion was made to include any quota resolution made by the Council.

I. Old Business (continued)

4. Parks Canada Report

a) Parks Canada- Western Arctic

Alan Fehr distributed a handout summarizing recent activities. Ian MacDonald has been hired as the new biologist. Ian is replacing Martin Raillard. Three summer students worked with Parks this year.

The new National Parks Act was tabled in the House of Commons. This new Act has provisions to allow renewable resource harvesting in national parks by aboriginal peoples. The Inuvik office will then have the legislative authority to develop new regulations for harvesting wildlife, consistent with the IFA.

The Chair suggested that a representative from Parks Canada attend the initial meeting with YTG which is to be held to identify issues in relation to the Wildlife Act amendments. Alan Fehr agreed to contact Kelly Olson to ensure that Parks is informed about the meeting.

b) Ivvavik National Park

Ron Larsen, Chief Park Warden, Ivvavik National Park reported on activities related to the park. A handout summarizing activities in the park was distributed to members.

There are now two permanent positions associated with the park – Ron, as Chief Park Warden and Steve Travis as the Senior Park Warden. There is also a seasonal warden position and three seasonal positions for patrolpersons.

Parks purchased a new boat which was very useful for coastal patrols. Four river patrols were completed. Work carried out during these patrols included raptor surveys and monitoring of campsite erosion. A 10-day swift water rescue technician course was also held. A five-day hiking patrol was also completed between Sheep Creek and Komakuk. Information gathered on this hike has been used to prepare a draft guide for a hiking route.

Parks' staff made three separate attempts to recover the immobilization dart that was lost during the muskox collaring in the spring. It may be preferable to use radio telemetry darts in the future.

A two-day clean up was undertaken to remove fuel drums and industrial refuse from the coast of the park. The clean up will take a few more years to complete. The clean up at Komakuk was begun over the summer. Thirteen of the sixteen buildings have been designated as heritage sites. Two monitors from Akalvik were on site during the clean up.

There were two film projects in the park over the summer. The Swedarctic Tundra Northwest 1999 Project spent two days in the park collecting a variety of data. There were a total of 99 visitors to Ivvavik over the summer. It is possible that the facility at Sheep Creek will be scaled down in the future.

c) Ivvavik National Park Management Plan review

Hillarie Greening reported that the review of the Ivvavik Management Plan is underway. Lindsay Staples supplied comments on the scoping document during the summer. This document has now been approved. There have been Open House meetings to date- one in Aklavik and one in Inuvik. Both were well attended and provided a number of useful comments. Further meetings are scheduled for Whitehorse, Dawson and Old Crow. Once the meetings are completed all the comments that were received will be brought together

in a draft document. Parks is considering forming an ad hoc working group as part of the review.

d) Ivvavik National Park Ecosystem Management Plan

The Chair commented that the Council needs to review the action items in the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. The Ecosystem Management Plan is to be integrated into the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

The Chair welcomed Phillip Merchant, Yukon Government's Fish and Wildlife Branch.

Phillip commented that there are two issues to discuss in relation to the muskox collaring that occurred in April: the loss of the immobilization dart and the residue of the immobilizing drug in the animal. The drug in question is widely used. It is a good drug to use because it is stable over long periods, but it is very dangerous to humans if not handled properly. The dart itself is the best one to use in the cold although it is not extremely accurate.

It is not known if the dart that was lost would have discharged on impact. They usually do, so it is likely that the dart now contains only a residue amount of the drug. Efforts to find the lost dart included the use of a trained search dog, visual searches and the use of two metal detectors bought specifically for this purpose. The area where the dart was lost is very wet and would be difficult to travel over in the summer. In winter the area is covered in snow and the dart will be well buried. It is unlikely now that the dart will ever be found, but given the terrain where it was lost, it doesn't pose any real threat. The use of a radio telemetry dart could be considered in future work.

In reference to the safety of the drug residue in the animal, Phillip reported that in the USA the standard is that an animal shouldn't be eaten within 30 days of being tranquilized. Because the testing has never been done by Canadian authorities, the Canadian standard is that the animal should never be eaten. Phillip added that he personally would eat an immobilized animal after 30 days but he is legally bound to report that it is never safe as that is the recognised Canadian standard. When the collars are removed the animals will be tagged in a way that is clearly visible so that hunters will know that the animals have been immobilized.

Danny C. Gordon commented that he felt much better about the use of the drug and the lost dart having heard Phillip's presentation. Dorothy Cooley previously had given a presentation on the drug to the community; additional technical information was provided by Phillip to address some of the issues raised by the community. Members agreed that Phillip's presentation was very useful in satisfactorily addressing all the concerns that had arisen over the drug's use.

The Chair commented that there is a real need to do a better job of communicating issues to all parties. Phillip agreed to prepare a fact sheet about the drug, which can be circulated to the IGC and the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.

Action 99-09-12 : WMAC(NS) will send the fact sheet on the immobilization drug used in the muskox collaring to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.

Action 99-09-13 : WMAC(NS) will write to the Inuvialuit Game Council outlining the Council's discussion regarding the immobilization drug that was used during the muskox collaring. The letter is to inform the IGC that the Council's concerns regarding the use of the drug and the lost dart had been satisfactorily addressed. A copy of the fact sheet on the drug used in the muskox collaring is to be attached.

5. 1999/2000 Wildlife Management and Research Updates

Brian Pelchat tabled summary reports on the Muskox Ecology Study and the Herschel Island Vegetation Studies prepared by Dorothy Cooley, as well as a colour map of the muskox satellite locations from April 4 to August 9, 1999. The Herschel Island project was almost \$4000 over budget due to travel and helicopter costs exceeding estimated expenses.

The Yukon North Slope Atlas is not yet complete. Alice is waiting to receive the last few maps. The atlas should be ready for distribution by late October.

An update on the GNWT's Richardson Mountains grizzly bear study was included in the meeting binder. No discussion was held by the members.

6. 1999/2000 Wildlife Management and Research Proposals

The 1999-2000 budget for IFA implementation funds for wildlife management was summarized as follows:

Funds Contributed

Yukon Government	\$140,000
Parks Canada	\$35,00
Canadian Wildlife Service	\$15,000
Total	\$190,000

To date, a total of \$93,315 has been allocated to projects on the recommendation of the Council, leaving an outstanding balance of \$96,685.

Brian Pelchat reported that he has asked Dorothy Cooley to get together with the regional team for the north Yukon to discuss potential projects. Brian added that proposals for potential projects should be developed for the Council to review by next month. Members agreed that a teleconference should be held in a month's time to consider further projects and make recommendations regarding any unallocated funds.

The following projects were reviewed and discussed by Council members:

- **Grizzly Bear Workshop.** The Chair reported that he had received a request from John Nagy for funds to be contributed toward a grizzly bear workshop to be held in Inuvik in the new calendar year. In order to effectively manage the grizzly bear population in the ISR it is necessary to know the size of the population. As there is limited up-to-date information on the size of the population in a number of regions, it is necessary to undertake a population count. The GNWT's Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has proposed that a workshop be held which will bring together community representatives and biologists in order to review the variety of methods available to determine the grizzly bear population. It is necessary to establish which method which addresses the concerns of the user communities and is best suited to the area. The Council recommended that \$10,000 be allocated towards to costs of the grizzly bear workshop. The GNWT will also be contributing to this workshop.
- **Inuvialuit Harvest Study.** The Council recommended that \$12,500 be allocated towards the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. This represents a portion of YTG's annual contribution.
- **Yukon North Slope Satellite Images and Poster Production.** Implementation funds (1998-99) were used to purchase the satellite images, contract a writer for the text, do the layout, design and printing and to distribute the final product. Estimates for printing and distribution were based on the finished product measuring 39" by 27". However once the layout and design of the poster were underway, it became apparent that the proposed dimensions would not be sufficient. In order to properly display the satellite images, proposed photos and text, the poster's dimensions need to be 35" x 45". This larger size requires a specialty press and will increase the printing costs. Distribution costs will also increase. The Council recommended that \$4110 be allocated to Yukon North Slope satellite and slide image poster to cover the additional costs of printing and distribution.
- **Muskox Meeting.** In order for WMAC(NS) to recommend a muskox quota for Inuvialuit hunters on the Yukon North Slope, representatives of the Inupiat, Inuvialuit and relevant agencies need to get together to decide on a harvest allocation based on a percentage of the total allowable harvest for the entire North Slope population. It is proposed that a meeting be held with Inupiat representatives in Kaktovik. Canadian participants would include a representative from the Inuvialuit Game Council, WMAC(NS), Parks Canada, the Yukon Government and the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee. The objective of the meeting would be to decide on a harvest

allocation for Inuvialuit hunters on the Yukon North Slope. Council members recommended that \$2000 be allocated to cover the travel costs of a representative from the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee to attend the proposed meeting. The costs of the other representatives are to be covered by their individual agencies.

- **Yukon North Slope Atlas.** This project has not yet been completed. WMAC(NS) has been carrying the costs incurred so far on this project in 1999-2000. It is proposed that these costs be recovered from implementation funds once the final total cost of the project has been determined. The cost currently stands at about \$4000. This item can be discussed further during the teleconference.
- **Yukon Wildlife Act Amendments.** Amendments to the Yukon Wildlife Act were proclaimed by the Yukon Government in December 1998. The next step in the process is the identification of amendments to the Wildlife Regulations. The Working Group format will be used to develop the regulation changes. The Yukon Government will be contracting legal counsel to do the preliminary work of identify the required amendments to the Wildlife Regulations. The Council recommended that \$10,000 be allocated to the Yukon Government to contract legal counsel.
- **Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan Implementation Workshop and a Yukon North Slope Coastal Planning Workshop.** Members agreed that both of these workshops are needed. There is already \$5000 allocated to each workshop in the Council's budget, but further funds will be needed. A budget could be developed based on the funds required to hold the initial Long Term Research Plan workshop in Whitehorse. These initiatives should be discussed further during the teleconference.

Action 99-09-14 : The Secretariat will develop a budget for a Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan implementation workshop and a Yukon North Slope Coastal Planning workshop.

- Alan Fehr commented that Parks Canada might need some funds allocated for water analysis. He will report further on this project during the teleconference.
- Joan Eamer agreed to develop a proposal for a small package of materials to be used in conjunction with the Aklavik summer camp. This proposal can also be considered during the teleconference.
- Members discussed the possibility of producing 50 to 100 copies of the smaller version of the Long Term Research Plan poster for distribution to universities and other research institutions. Members agreed to consider this idea further during the teleconference.

Recommendations were summarized as follows:

Grizzly bear workshop	\$10,000
Inuvialuit Harvest Study	\$12,500
Yukon North Slope Satellite Images and Poster Production	\$4,110
Muskox meeting	\$2,000
Yukon Wildlife Act Amendments	\$10,000

This leaves a total of \$58,075 unallocated in the 1999-2000 budget for IFA implementation funds for wildlife management.

Motion

to recommend that the following amounts be allocated from the 1999-2000 IFA implementation funds for wildlife management: Inuvialuit Harvest Study- \$12,500; Muskox meeting- \$2,000; Grizzly bear workshop- \$10,000; Yukon Wildlife Act Amendments- \$10,000; Yukon North Slope Satellite Images and Poster Production- \$4,110.

Moved: Joan Eamer
Seconded: Danny C. Gordon
Motion carried

7. Grizzly Bear Management

The Chair distributed copies of a pamphlet titled ‘Co-Management of grizzly bears in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region’, which was prepared by the GNWT in conjunction with several other agencies.

Members agreed that no changes were needed to the grizzly bear resolution 99.05.31. The resolution will be reviewed again in the spring.

Action items in the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan for 1999-2000 are to be reviewed at the December meeting.

8. Muskox Management

The Chair commented that the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan needs to be redrafted to reflect the fact that there is only one population on the North Slope that ranges across the Yukon- Alaska border. Further revisions can be considered at the December meeting.

9. Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan - Guide for Researchers

The Chair commented that the Guide for Researchers needs to be reviewed by Council members before it can go out to wider review. It is important to finalize the document and get it onto the web site. Brian Pelchat submitted comments he had received from YTG's Heritage Branch and from Environmental Protection.

Action 99-09-15 : Council members will review the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan Guide for Researchers and forward their comments to the Secretariat by November 30, 1999.

L. Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for December. Dates cannot be set until the dates of the IGC meeting are known. A teleconference is to be held the week of October 25 in order to discuss the funds outstanding in the IFA implementation funds for wildlife management.

M. Adjournment

*Motion
to adjourn.*

Moved: Danny C. Gordon
Seconded: Brian Pelchat
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date