



## MEETING MINUTES

WMAC (NS) Quarterly Meeting  
Whitehorse, YT, Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre  
March 18-19, 2014

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**Lindsay Staples** (Chair) · **Rob Florkiewicz** Yukon Government (Member) · **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Chris Hunter** Government of Canada (Member -by telephone) · **Mike Suitor** Yukon Government (Alternate) · **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) · **Christine Cleghorn** (Secretariat) · **Stephanie Muckenheim** (Guest), Yukon Government, IFA Implementation and Projects Coordinator · **Richard Gordon** Yukon Government Herschel Park Head Ranger (Guest)

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March 18th, 2014

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:15am. He welcomed Ernest back from his travels and welcomed the group to the meeting. He reviewed the agenda and asked for any additions or deletions. There were none.

*Motion 03-14-01*

*To accept agenda as presented*

*Moved by: Danny C. Gordon*

*Seconded by: Ernest Pokiak*

*Motion Carried.*

### **A. Review and Approval of Minutes**

The members reviewed the December minutes and had the following changes to suggest:

Page 1: *HTC WMAC meeting – clarify that the original intent was to bring together a workshop to discuss quota discussion- need to convey that the quota discussion should be comprehensive and integrated -focus is on whole Aklavik Grizzly Bear Hunting Area.*

Page 3: *Maurice identified coal on Big Fish River. Hunters from Aklavik also found this and reported it to the HTC.*

Page 4: *outgoing corresp to Mike Gill.*

Page 5: *2<sup>nd</sup> last para Insert Norm's last name so it says Norm Snow.*

Page 6: *Yukon Government has submitted 3 projects... Put the period after North Slope and remain silent on the number of projects submitted or identified by YG.*

Page 9: 4<sup>th</sup> para down, Re; suggestion re spending time with Council comment was more about cultural resource management change to “might be worth spending time as a Council focusing on cultural resource management.”

Page 10: 3<sup>rd</sup> para starts with Parks Canada regulations. Parks Canada policy allows for the use of rubber bullet by trained employees.

Page 10: It was reported that a mix of moose and grizzly bears.

Motion 03-14-02 to accept December minutes with revisions

Moved by: Rob

Seconded by: Danny

Motion Carried.

The council reviewed the meeting record from Jan 28- Herschel Island Meeting.

The council decided to add a “Next Steps” section to the meeting record and then send to YG for review.

**Action 03-14-01: Draft a “next steps” section from the Herschel Island workshop and follow up actions in areas of Monitoring, Cruise Ships, Interpretive Plan, and Plan Review. Circulate next steps to YG and members.**

The Council reviewed the Aklavik HTC meeting Record.

Motion 03-14-03 to Accept Aklavik meeting record

Moved by Ernest

Seconded by Chris

Motion Carried.

The Council reviewed the January Minutes and had the following changes to recommend:

-Re: Research funds, Typo page 1 PCMB not PCB

Motion 03-14-04 to Accept January Minutes

Moved by: Rob

Seconded by: Danny

Motion Carried.

\*\*\*Michael Svoboda and Jodi Crewe joined the meeting\*\*\*

### **B. ABEK presentation**

Michael provided a short presentation about ABEK and the challenges and opportunities that it is facing at the present time. He reviewed program objectives and focus, and discussed the 2014-15 workplan. He noted that data synthesis is ongoing and described how the data request from the CBMP is being handled.

Rob asked about the status of spatial data that was previously collected by the Coop and was digitized by Nadele Flynn. Michael said that this data is all available, but noted that it

has never been analyzed. The Chair noted that this spatial information would likely be useful for the traditional use study.

**Action 03-14-02: Rob to follow up with Nadele F. regarding her assessment of the ABEK spatial data for the North Slope region.**

**Action 03-12-03: Secretariat to follow up with Michael S. re: PBAC, PBTC and the best sources of polar bear information for ABEKS to reference.**

Lindsay inquired about how the indicators are reviewed. Michael explained the process using an example of the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee.

Michael talked about communication projects, including the monitoring report, Gathering report, YouTube, and posters.

Lindsay asked what Michael's sense of the three Inuvialuit communities interest in the coop. Michael said that they had good uptake this year with the community tour as it engaged community people more than at the gathering, which is held in only one community.

*\*\*\*Tom Jung and Todd Powell joined the meeting. Jodi Crewe left the meeting\*\*\**

*\*\*\*Ilam- Peter Hale, CWS joined the meeting by teleconference\*\*\**

### **C. Federal SARA polar bear plan –Peter Hale**

Peter introduced himself and explained that he was the former manager of wildlife for Nunavut and he is currently with CWS in Gatineau. He explained that the presentation he is providing is meant to focus a discussion.

Peter reviewed management consultations, decisions, and actions to date. Polar Bear was listed on November 9, 2011, action plan mandatory by November 9, 2014.

EC will adopt the existing Provincial/Territorial plans, which will collectively become the SARA Management Plan. Specific management actions and timelines will need to be developed to ensure that the plan is SARA-compliant.

Peter Hale is hoping to share a draft of the overarching plan with PBAC in the spring and get their comments. The aim is to table a management plan by the deadline and amend it as other territorial and provincial plans are completed (SARA provides for this). He reviewed the steps leading to the adoption of a Management Plan (see presentation).

Lindsay thanked Peter for his presentation. Chris Hunter asked Peter about details for the jurisdiction reviews. Peter responded that he didn't have those details at this time. He then asked how we would like to be involved in the review – written comments are one way, but a face-to-face meeting can also be useful. Peter noted that the national plan deviates from the National Strategy in that the threats section is more detailed (new information

since the National Strategy was developed), and in the implementation section. Jurisdictions have ultimate implementation responsibilities and can determine their own implementation schedule.

Todd Powell asked about the coordination between the NWT community consultation (with respect to SB and NB) and the federal schedule. Peter said that they would welcome the opportunity to be part of GNWTs consultation if the opportunity presented itself. They are open to meeting with the WMBs.

Tom Jung raised the concern that the majority of the mgmt. plan being drafted is based on the national conservation strategy, which YG thought was flawed in some areas.

Peter, who was with the GNWT when he reviewed the national strategy, recognized weaknesses and strengths and relayed that he hasn't adopted everything.

Peter said that it is important that we read the draft plan and provide critical review. Tom asked when the WMBs and YG get a draft: after it has been through a review process, or after it has been through an internal review?

Peter hasn't had a chance to get approval from senior mgmt. on this yet, but the hope is that a draft could be shared with PBAC in May, which would provide broad feedback because of the representation on those committees.

Tom said he liked the approach of an early review before the report is too far along, this would allow for more meaningful input, if the report is not already preapproved before review.

Lindsay asked if the management plan that EC and its partners are working to develop would satisfy Canada's commitment to make a contribution to the circumpolar action plan. Also, with respect to the populations that are shared with Alaska and Greenland, to what extent do they factor into the program of work?

Peter answered that the actions identified in the draft mgmt. plan include actions with US, Greenland, and other range state members. It will satisfy some of their concerns. Satisfying the circumpolar commitment will be a separate document; volume 1 will be ready for consultation in a few months. Volume 2 is the one with actions, which work will begin on this spring. It is important that Canada develops and implements its own action plan. The contribution of TK in the work is recognized and appreciated. The PBSG is struggling with the role of TK in polar bear assessments and population studies.

Lindsay said that we would need to be vigilant with the role that is assigned to other governments because of the importance of co-management principles and contributions.

**Action Item 03-14-04: follow up with Peter Hale from EC to see what the next steps are on the polar bear management plan for WMAC's summer meeting.**

*\*\*\*Michael Svoboda left the meeting\*\*\**

#### **D. NWT Polar Bear Management Plan**

*\*\*\*Marsha Branigan joined the meeting by teleconference\*\*\**

Lindsay thanked Marsha for joining the meeting.

Marsha described the NWT plan. Under the SARA plan ENR is given authority by WMAC(NWT) and Canada to start drafting a plan. She said that a lot of work is already happening and the plan is to put it on paper and then take it to the communities to start talking to them. The thinking is to record mgmt. goals, objectives, actions that capture what is happening now. In addition to what we are currently doing, this is an opportunity capture what we would like to be doing.

She explained that the IGC has agreed to draft Section 2 titled Cultural Importance.

Someone is still needed to go through the threat assessment -impacts and scope. There are plans to have a teleconference on this in May to fill in the table as a first cut. She asked if WMAC (NS) wanted to be involved in this.

She said that it would be good to comment on the polar bear ‘Goals, Objectives, Approaches and Actions’ document.

The timeframe for the document overall is described in the table presented. A first draft should be ready in April/May, then the plan is to hold a teleconference to do the threat assessment, plus create a consultation package, and go to the communities in June, The I-I meeting is planned for Inuvik in August. Marsha should be able to come back with a new draft in September to the Councils, likely at a joint meeting.

Lindsay indicated that the Council would like to be part of the Threat Assessment teleconference, given our interest in climate change and its relevance for the South Beaufort population.

Tom Jung commented that the ‘Threats matrix’ has its own protocols and procedures – IUCN has a guidebook on this and he offered to help guide the group through this if wanted.

Marsha reviewed the six management objectives, some of which are more straightforward than others. These are still draft so input encouraged.

Regarding the Boundary Change SB/NB – Marsha has shape files ready to go and is waiting for it to go into a regulation. This is worthy of discussion at PBAC.

Lindsay asked how shared populations (i.e. Alaska) would be consulted. Marsha is not sure at this point, although expects they will be consulted at the ‘jurisdictions’ stage.

Regarding capacity to implement the plan, Marsha spoke about capturing the things that are already happening, without adding too much new work. She said that it is a five -year plan, so there is an opportunity to prioritize. Rob encouraged fewer actions rather than more. He said that the Yukon learned this lesson early on in their plans. Even when you think that action items won't individually take too much work, cumulatively it can really add up.

Tom Jung mentioned that this is the classic divide between the aspirational side of planning and the do-able side.

**Action 03-14-05: Council to provide initial feedback on the NWT polar bear management plan.**

There will be an opportunity to engage with Peter Hale this summer at our meeting, also to provide comments to Marsha prior to June meeting in Sachs.

*\*\*\*Marsha left the meeting\*\*\**

A short discussion ensued regarding follow up on polar bear planning. Dan Lindsey will be attending the PBAC meeting in May and there is an opportunity for discussion there. Tom Jung indicated that YG would be focused in part on how prescriptive the national plan is.

There were questions about where the ENR plan interfaces with the national plan, and how the different objectives work together. The national plan needs to provide guidance to jurisdictions, or vice versa, but something needs to be out front.

There should be a comparison about how these objectives match up with those in the National Strategy.

**E. PBTK Report**

Christine updated the Council on the status of the PBTK report and the review of the draft report by the TK Holders and HTCs.

**F. USGS Polar Bear population assessment for South Beaufort**

Lindsay advised the group that the South Beaufort population status has reverted to the prior designation, based on the issues with USGS and their treatment of data.

**G. PB TAG ADMINISTRATION MOU**

Lindsay reported that the Polar bear MOU have been signed off by all signatories. The MOU is in place and now the work will be to adjust internal government procedures to ensure the intent of the MOU (to have a one subpopulation -based tag for the south Beaufort population) is upheld.

**H. Financial Report**

The Secretariat presented the projected budget to March 31st, 2014.

Christine explained that we received 30k as a supplemental funding. We are planning to have a 5k roll over for this year (so that there is some buffer between year end and when the first YG payment comes in).

The supplemental funding was to offset expenses. It largely covered the expenses to host the Yukon North Slope conservation planning workshop.

Christine said that we have indicated to the federal government that the Council would likely be making another request for funding for the coming fiscal year.

The IP budget will be spent this year with the exception of \$5k reserved in a GIC for the Council's credit card and \$5k for year-end cash flow transitioning.

### **2014/15 budget**

Christine presented the notional budget for 2014/15. The council will not have surplus funds from 2013-14 to carry-over and a surplus is not anticipated for 2014-15.

Stephanie asked about the term report. Christine said the Council was shifting from a two-year to a three-year term report. A term report is scheduled to be prepared in 2014.

Jen explained the plan to prepare a supplemental funding request early in the year for projects and determine these at the summer meeting.

Stephanie mentioned that YG was encouraged to apply for a two-year supplemental funding request, which they did and it was approved, but now, it is unconfirmed.

YG said that in YG - IFA funding as a whole will likely be 7k in deficit, but managed closely.

Lindsay mentioned that we would really like to focus on the WCMP as a project and the traditional use component. A workplan and funding package will be developed.

*Motion 03-14-06 to accept the budget for 2014/15 as tabled with the provision that the secretariat would pursue soliciting other funds to carry out the mandate.*

*Moved by: Rob*

*Seconded by: Ernest*

*Motion carried.*

### **I. Herschel Island**

Richard Gordon provided an update on Herschel Island planning. He said that the department is looking at how to arrange FTEs for Herschel due to the extended season. The Park will be operating from April 11 into September. There is a Cruise ship is scheduled for Sept 10<sup>th</sup>.

Lindsay asked what the cost implications of the one ship would be. Richard said that there are a few options: handle it with normal staff, or with volunteer people wanting to fly to

Herschel separately. Options for this season extension are about 20k. YG said that there is an obligation to meet and greet in a territorial park, it's also a safety issue (having people come to the park when it is unmanned). The other option would be to start the season later in April, but that is very hard on the equipment because the snow is too soft etc.

Stephanie said that ultimately it is the job of the Herschel policy group and screening process to address cruise ship landings and the cost should be incurred by industry.

20k for a ship landing on Herschel has cost implications on all other YG IFA implementation activities for this year.

Chris said that the cruise ships are limited in their scheduling options. Stephanie said that there would still be cost implications if the ship landed in-season to bring in more staff etc. There are some obstacles for cost recovery, especially getting the funds back into the Herschel budget and not into general revenue.

Ernest said that it really should be the cruise ship operators that pay the extra costs and it could be passed on to the clients. Ernest suggested a letter should be written to cruise ship operators informing them of the season and asking them to visit in the operating season. Richard said that he is doing all of his budgeting and planning for the season now. He said that when people land, customs flies in on a separate plane, so there are a lot of expenses that are incurred.

Lindsay suggested that the council could draft a letter to the minister, in light of what we have learned about Herschel and cruise ships.

Rob suggested that this letter could be a part of bigger package wrapping up the Herschel workshop. On the cruise ship policy – this may be a ministerial issue. The other issues may be operational and addressed to the director of parks.

Stephanie said that the “meet and greet “ obligation is in the management plan, but Lindsay said that surely there is a caveat related to cost associated with implementation.

Christine suggested that it could be an YG policy to discourage landings on Herschel until adequate resources are available.

Chris said that thoughtful consideration around developing fees should be looked at.

The Council's letter could outline the range of options to consider and would not have to recommend any option, but could suggest that at minimum the outcome of landings should be revenue neutral. If YG wants to encourage the cruise ship industry, money should be attached to it.

Stephanie is doing some work looking into the cruise ship landings going through the EISC process.



The Secretariat will enquire with organizations that have experience dealing with cruise ships (Torngat, and Nunavut and Labrador etc).

One option could include an EISC policy establishing an industry standard for cruise ships.

Stephanie said that Yukon Heritage is part of the Herschel working group, and that the departments of Tourism and Economic Development may have an interest as well.

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### **March 19, 2014**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9 am.

#### **Herschel Island update continued-** Richard Gordon

Lindsay suggested that the policy-working group could look at the policy requirements related to cruise ship landings and how permit requirements could trigger EISC screening under the IFA.

Richard continued his update. Heritage plans to come in in June to work on the Mission house (prior to when the black guillemots come).

July 20-Aug 18<sup>th</sup> The Wagner Institute will be returning under their five-year program, with a focus on Hershel and mainland.

Richard said that he had a call last week from the Aklavik HTC seeking clarification on Inupiat seeking permission to hunt on Herschel. There is an issue with bringing firearms across the border.

Lindsay said that in order to harvest there, they require permission for the Aklavik HTC as established in the IFA.

Richard talked about the naming of Caton Point in Ptarmigan Bay. Chris Burn notified people that the name on the map was different than what people were calling it. The map says Colton point, but it should be Caton point.

Chris Hunter indicated that the issue was raised by Parks Canada with the HTC. The suggestion is to change the name on the map back to Caton point. Parks Canada is taking the lead on this.

The Council discussed follow up from the Herschel workshop.

**Action Item 03-14-07: Write a letter with regard to a cruise ship policy that would be addressed to the director of Parks.**

Richard mentioned that Sara Nielson, the interpretive planner, is working on an interpretive sign. The Council discussed the significance of the existing plaque on Herschel Island. If there are any logos are to go on the plaque they should be the principals, which are Inuvialuit and YG.

Lindsay suggested that the interpretive plan could be enriched with more Inuvialuit content.

\*\*\*Jacquie Bastick joined the meeting at 9:30\*\*\*

**J. Dolly Varden Monitoring** -Jacquie Bastick – Acting team ecologist leader for Ivvavik

Jacquie explained Dolly Varden Monitoring project. Originally PC was looking at monitoring with photography. She said that now there is a chance work with DFO on a mark and recapture project. This could become the new indicator and it would be a five or ten year monitoring scale. This project would be linked with a larger study and so could provide information and context using methods already tested. DFO would take the lead on this and would run the surveys; members from Aklavik would accompany DFO. The program would run for two years at a time (mark and the recapture).

Danny said that he was aware of the project through the Westside working group.

Jacquie said that this is the first measure for Dolly Varden in the park that could be well integrated into the EI measure. Currently they do sampling for fish caught out of Fish Creek.

She said that two to three days at each fish hole would be for the marking and recapturing. The tagging would be in the Firth.

Mike asked if there is information about cyclic nature of Dolly Varden: if monitoring is only done every 5 to 10 years and they cycle, what will the information mean?

Danny said that the fish have been studied for 40 years and they still there is not that much known.

Jacque provided an update of other work in the Park: Breeding bird surveys, wildlife camera monitoring, and flights to check river gauge. There will also be a few flights to deploy and check cameras on the Firth River.

She explained that they are working with Chris Burn to install permafrost-monitoring stations on the coastal plain; this work will take place July 24-26<sup>th</sup>. There is also consideration for putting a station near Sheep Creek.

Lindsay asked if Parks would be open to asking Aklavik residents about recommended locations for the permafrost probes.

Jacque indicated they would be as long as the locations had appropriate conditions for drilling such as: being close to water bodies and proper substrate.

Lindsay suggested that Jacque follow up with Danny regarding possible locations.

*\*\*\* Cassandra Kelly joined the meeting\*\*\**

Lindsay introduced Cassandra Kelly as interim policy analyst at Environment.

#### **Herschel discussion wrap up**

Re: cruise ships require a wilderness tourism permit and a Parks permit. The conditions are usually environmental re: bear management.

A new management plan for the park is required by 2016. Rob suggested that between now and then the cruise ship policy group could work toward clear outcomes. The financial liability is substantial for managing cruise ships landings at Herschel.

Chris informed the council that there is some precedence in other parks managed by Parks Canada. Transport Canada guidelines (2005) for cruise ships could be considered.

*\*\*\* James Malone joined the meeting at 10:30\*\*\**

#### **Action item 03-14-08: Follow up with Chris Hunter re cruise ships policies within Parks Canada that could inform the Council's letter to YG Parks.**

#### **K. North Slope Grizzly Bear Quota**

Chris raised the matter that when the council made its 2011 grizzly bear quota recommendations, the Ministers letter indicated that the quota would be revisited at the completion of the grizzly bear report. The federal minister indicated that they accepted the recommendation for one year (as the quota was tied to the anticipated report completion date of one year). The quota expired over one year ago. The Chair suggested that issue could be dealt with administratively.

As the YG issues the tags to PC, and YG had some discomfort in issuing tags for Ivvavik without confirmation from the PC minister that the quota had been extended.

The council has sent a letter to both ministers recommending that the quota would remain the same.

Chris said that he has briefed his executives in PC and the Council's letter is in the minister's office now. He doesn't see any delays in responding to and confirming the Council's recommendations.

Lindsay indicated that Ramona is working exclusively on the North Slope grizzly bear project report. Rob indicated that the report is looking like it will be complete mid summer and with a follow-up workshop in the fall.

Danny said that in Aklavik it is really difficult to get to Ivvavik Park to harvest; it would cost about \$800 in gas just to get there. He said it would help if the harvest area could include a buffer zone could be applied in the area of the boundary.

Lindsay said that the spatial distribution of the harvest is set by the HTCs: the Council recommends the harvest, but HTCs recommend the distribution.

Christine provided an update on the illustrative graphic of quota distribution for grizzly bears and the updated table.

#### **L. Beaufort Sea offshore drilling review**

The Chair explained that this review would be the first review of deep water drilling in the Arctic. It is expected that many parties will be involved in the review. The EIRB has sent out the draft terms of reference (TOR) for the review. The Council will go through it to ensure that issues that may affect the YNS are in the review.

IGC will likely focus their comments on same season relief well drilling. The Council's comments will likely focus on risk and clean up as it relates to oiling of the Yukon coastline in the event of a blow out.

The Chair suggested that the eSpace modeling work would be relevant here. In the event of a blowout, you can't prevent oil from washing up on all beaches, so it is important to know which ones to protect on a priority-basis.

IGC has also been following the information on dispersants and how they react in cold water vs. warm water.

In the review, there is also a worst-case scenario that has to be done and that should include the YNS.

**Action Item 03-14-09: The council will provide comments on the TOR. The Secretariat and Chair we will draft a letter and circulate it to members.**

Lindsay explained that the council has a mandate in the offshore waters around Herschel.

Lindsay mentioned that the Council was also briefed on the WWF oil spill trajectory modeling project, which is a third- party independent analysis. The work should be wrapped up in March.

**Action Item 03-14-10: follow up with Dan S at WWF to and see if the oil spill trajectory modeling work is complete.**

Ernest talked about the community meetings from Imperial and discussion about the high cost of drilling and cleanup. One blow out is too many and they should also have plan B, C, and D.

**M. IFA research proposals**

Jennifer reviewed the status of allocated research funding.

2013/14

All of the funds were spent. Mike Sutor purchased fuel and paid satellite fees for next year with funds that were remaining.

2014/15

Parks Canada and Environment Canada proposals were discussed and approved in January.

Rob reviewed projects that have already been approved, and then brought clarity to projects that have not as of yet been approved.

Yukon Government Projects

Porcupine Caribou Use of the YNS \$34,500 (supported in Jan)

Ptarmigan +Raptors Yukon College work \$10,000

-Rob continues discussion with D.Mossup

- project could be slightly altered to be more suitable for WCMP purposes

- next year is 5 year raptor survey

- uncertain at this time but more certainty possible in the next month

Raptors Yukon Parks \$4,500

- was discussed at the Herschel workshop

- go back and look at existing next sites, work with Rangers

ITEX re-measure plants \$6,000

- project happens every 5 years, this is 4<sup>th</sup> time

Ecological Land Classification \$60,000

- this is an important project in terms of advancing WCMP efforts

Sensitive Habitat Otter Aerial Survey Density \$0

Motion 03-14-05 to recommend ITEX works (\$6,000) and Ecological Land Classification (\$60,000), and to revisit the outstanding, uncommitted monies prior to the summer meeting by way of teleconference.

*Moved by: Rob Florkiewicz*

*Seconded by: Ernest Pokiak*  
*Motion carried*

**Action Item 03-14-11: Create a small working group to work through the Ecological Land Classification project prior to the summer meeting. Mike, Rob and Chris should be involved.**

The council has recommended a 60 k marker for the ecological land classifications (ELCs). It seems that the most effective imagery will be landsat 8 and it is free. Nadele and Rob have been discussing what baseline information would be needed to do this work and Nadele is looking into this.

Mike explained the ELCs and how they are done and what they mean. A vegetation map would just describe what is seen and an ELC has a description about the site: vegetation, soil type, aspect, geomorphology, etc.

Ecological units can be mapped at different scales, depending on the type of information that is desired. It could involve going out in the field, but it is not necessary. Some assessment will need to be done on the quality of existing information. Ivvavik has some protocols in place now that would be easy to carry over and cost out and result in an efficient methodology.

Mike said that he would lean toward ELC when it is cost efficient, rather than vegetation classification mapping. Chris said that he prefers this model as well.

Rob mentioned that an ELC product is beneficial in looking at climate change questions.

Vuntut Park ELC is about to be done this year as well. Ivvavik is done and people agreed that it would be beneficial to have the ELC done for the YNS.

Chris suggested that the project has the potential to be done within a year timeframe, given that protocols already exist etc.

The Traditional Use study also needs to be discussed.

The group reviewed GNWT's activities regarding otters. Given other priorities at this time, YG has decided not to go with an aerial survey. The project will remain as a placeholder.

Mike reviewed the Old Crow muskrat study. He transmitted this document to Aklavik, recognizing that the circumstance is very different between Old Crow Flats. The study made various linkages between ice and muskrat density.

**Action Item 03-14-12: Send a data request to ABEKS, and reconfirm the IFA fund recommendation. Request the same package that went to CBM. Indicate a timeline on this so that it dovetails with the LUO project.**

*\*\*\*Rosa Brown joined by telephone\*\*\**

#### **N. SSR, website and Digitizing projects**

Rosa presented her work to date on a number of projects that she has been working on by contract.

She reviewed the document she has been developing regarding the Species Status Report. Some questions she has raised include: Why are we doing this? Although it is considered the 3<sup>rd</sup> volume of the plan, it does not capture the unique contributions of the WMAC (NS), or Inuvialuit voices. There is too much overlap with assessments by other agencies, and it is onerous to update every three years. How can we make this document more useful? More dynamic?

She suggested that maybe we could focus on a few species every year or every two years.

Lindsay thanked Rosa for her work, and noted that the Council could digest her document between now and the summer meeting.

Rosa also discussed her website review work for the Council. She urged the Council to consider updating the site, updating images and presenting information in a way that is not buried behind links.

Jennifer flagged that a major website overhaul is on the horizon for the Council, given that our ability to upload documents is diminishing because of size and architectural constraints.

Lindsay noted that when the website was originally built, the idea was that it would be a comprehensive space for all things related to the North Slope. Jennifer informed the Council that we estimate \$5,000-10,000 to revamp the site.

Mike noted that the PCMB is currently going through a major website overhaul.

Rosa said that she has been working to scan and file correspondence and meeting packages in the office; she is about 1/3 of the way through the work.

*\*\*\*Rosa Brown left the meeting\*\*\**

#### **O. Parks Canada Update**

Chris provided a short update from Parks Canada. A field unit update and monitoring update can be found in the meeting package. Staffing numbers continue to rise – management positions are largely filled. Francis is the new acting Superintendent; she started out as a planner in Nunavut. A new GIS technician, a new Asset Manager, have joined the team, and there will be a full complement of Site Managers for the three parks this year.

A number of Parks-organized trips will be running into the Park this year. Promotion began earlier this winter and the first trips have already sold out. Doing a trial this summer of catered camping trips, organized through Aklavik Community Corporation.

Parks Canada held a workshop Feb 12 and 13 to revise the vision for Sheep Creek; it was a very successful meeting. Awaiting final report on Ivvavik Airstrip. Pursuing risk assessment this year for all activities at Sheep Creek, including the use of the airstrip. Wild animal regulations: still some challenges in bringing this file to a conclusion that may involve redrafting.

New management planning directive for Parks Canada came out in late 2013, which established a new timeframe for planning and state of the parks report – it moved from a five year to a ten-year process and streamlines the document. Assessment, scoping exercises, and plans associated with the State of the Park Report were not signed off by the CEO. What we have on the schedule right now is to look at a new Management Plan starting in 2016, with 2015 for the state of assessment and scoping exercise. “State of” and “Scoping” exercises will likely just mean repackaging our information for the CEO. For the Management plan itself, the framework is different enough that we may want to consider a new Management plan. Need to discuss in more detail in the future.

Lindsay thanked Chris for his update.

#### **P. Correspondence review**

The Chair explained the correspondence package and asked for any questions. He highlighted the correspondence from USGS (Todd Atwood) describing a timeline for the publication of the polar bear work.

#### **Q. Upcoming Meetings**

The Council reviewed upcoming meetings and set the dates for the September meeting.

Jennifer and Christine will coordinate summer meeting plans.  
The fall meeting will be Sept 16-18 in Whitehorse.

#### **R. Meeting Adjourned**

*Motion 03-14-06 to adjourn the meeting*

*Moved by: Ernest Pokiak*

*Seconded by: Rob Florkiewicz*

*Motion carried.*

Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.