



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES

WMAC(NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

Whitehorse, Yukon

October 8-9, 2002

Tuesday October 8, 2002

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

Guests: Ron Larsen - Parks Canada

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9 am.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and outlined some of the issues to be covered during the meeting. Additions to the agenda were an update on the new Bill C-2 and the upcoming IFA implementation funding meetings with the federal government.

Motion

To adopt the agenda

Moved: Herbert Felix
Second: Danny C. Gordon
Motion carried

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of April 2002 meeting.

Members reviewed the minutes of the April 2002 meeting. No changes to the minutes were requested:

Motion

To adopt the minutes of the July 2002 meeting.

Moved: Martin Raillard
Second: Herbert Felix
Motion carried

D. Review of Action Items

The Secretariat distributed a summary of the status of action items from previous meetings. The following items were discussed:

Action 02-07-01: WMAC(NS) will meet with the Yukon Government's Heritage Branch to discuss the process for reviewing and commenting on Yukon North Slope research.

Complete. The Secretariat distributed a summary of information about the issuance of Yukon Scientists and Explorers Licences, obtained from an interview with Jeff Hunston at YTG Heritage Resources Unit.

Doug commented that the process for issuing licences for research will be part of the upcoming discussion on captive wildlife. If legislation is required there will have to be a review of the process.

Herbert noted that, in the NWT, the Aurora Institute has a process for issuing licences that includes consultation with the communities.

Lindsay added now that the EISC is not screening industry research, they are looking to the co-management bodies to review research applications and provide comment.

Members commented on several aspects of the process that could be improved to provide more opportunity for community input and stricter

controls. A discussion was held as to the possibilities for including terms and conditions to the licence.

Action 02-10-01: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to Jeff Hunston and Kent Jingfors requesting a review of the process for issuing Yukon Scientists and Explorers Licences for the Yukon North Slope. The letter will express the Council concerns about the current process, given the change in the EISC's role and indicate that the burden is now on the co-management bodies to insure that any concerns regarding research activities are addressed. Copies of the letter are to be sent to the IGC, FJMC and John Meikle (YTG Environment -Regional/Habitat Management)

Action 02-07-09: WMAC(NS) will send a copy of the draft Canadian Muskox Management Plan to all the agencies that attended the workshop in Aklavik in October, as well as to the Mayo RRC and relevant agencies in Alaska for final comment. Agencies are to be asked to provide their comments by the end of August.

Outstanding. The plan is to be reviewed by the members at this meeting. Copies will be sent out once the review is complete.

Action 02-07-11: WMAC(NS) will write to the Coordinator of the Yukon's Conservation Data Centre in support of the work being conducted by the Centre.

Outstanding. Representatives for the Conservation Data Centre will be coming to the meeting tomorrow. A better informed letter can be written after their presentation.

Action 02-07-19: WMAC(NS) will write to Robert Hornal, Chair, Environmental Impact Review Board to suggest that the EIRB consider the most effective way for all parties to work together in the development of a database of information to be used in the process of assessing cumulative effects.

Outstanding. The Chair commented that this is a big project. It's not clear how to get everyone working together.

Action 02-07-15: The Secretariat will obtain information on a regular basis regarding the COSEWIC meeting to be held in the Yukon in the spring of 2003.

Ongoing. The Secretariat reported that the meeting is scheduled to be held in Whitehorse at the end of April 2003. Tom Jung will be attending the meeting tomorrow and will be able to provide some further information.

Members agreed that this meeting will give the Council a deadline for figuring out WMAC(NS)'s role with respect to the COSEWIC process. When COSEWIC is here they will want to learn more about how the Council works. WMAC(NS) should suggest the mechanics of how all the co-management bodies can be involved in the COSEWIC process. It should be a co-ordinated approach. A half day should be set aside for a meeting with COSEWIC members.

Action 02-10-02: WMAC(NS) will advise the WMAC(NWT), the IGC and the FJMC about the COSEWIC meeting in Whitehorse in April 2003.

Action 02-07-23: The Secretariat will contact John Nagy to discuss the issue of the GNWT informing or consulting with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee prior to harvesting muskox for research.

Completed. The Secretariat reported that she had contacted John who explained the situation. In 2000 there were 5 muskox harvested for scientific research. This harvest was initiated by the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and carried out without any consultation with the Aklavik Renewable Resource Council. In 2001, the ARRC wanted to do the same thing. One bull was shot by the RRC on Gwich'in land. There was no government involvement.

Danny commented that people in Aklavik feel they should have been informed. Members agreed that there should be some controls on informing communities on who is doing what and when.

Action 02-07-04: The Chair will write to Joe Linklater, Chief, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, to support future discussions regarding the establishment of reciprocal hunting rights.

Completed. The Chair commented that WMAC(NS) did receive a letter in response but the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation is not interested in pursuing this issue further at this time. Danny added that this is a concern for the people in Aklavik especially in relation to animals under quota and for trapping.

E. Correspondence

Members reviewed the correspondence in the meeting binder and discussed the following items:

- A letter from Kelly Olson regarding the North Slope Conference. The Chair commented that the next conference is scheduled to be held in 2003. The conference Chair is named alternately by the IGC and the Yukon

Government, but WMAC(NS) usually puts a list of names forward for consideration, as well as suggestions for a theme, timing and venue. The conference has also served as a forum for reviewing the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. An update on the status of the action items from the Plan are always tabled.

Martin suggested that a good theme could be how to deal with cumulative effects including how to keep track of different developments and determine thresholds.

The Chair added that the IGC has expressed its interest in seeing the conference held in Inuvik. There have also been several suggestions to hold the conference on the North Slope. This would mean changing the whole model of the conference which may be timely. The Joint Secretariat would be able to help out using their local resources.

Members agreed that there is value in having it on the North Slope because it allows people to have contact with the land. And the money spent on the conference would go back to Inuvialuit. June or August would be the best time. But before proceeding it would be a good idea to get an estimate of what it would cost. Ron Larsen agreed to talk to Dennis Zimmerman who works with Inuvialuit Tourism to see if he can provide a cost estimate.

Action 02-10-03: The Secretariat will phone canvas a number of strategic people to get their ideas for issues that could be covered at the next North Slope Conference and to ask their views about holding the conference on the North Slope, in June or August 2003.

The Council needs to be able to make a recommendation to YTG no later than December.

- Notice of the Furbearer Conference, in Whitehorse, May 2003. This item will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- A letter from the National Energy Board regarding Devon Canada Corporation's Beaufort Sea exploration program.
- An email from Joan Eamer clarifying the terms of the work being done to update the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op's Database of Information Sources. The Secretariat reported that Hillarie Zimmerman has begun work on the updating. Hillarie's work also involves added coastal zone references and completing a review of the information available regarding the coastal zone.

- A letter from the office of the Minister of Canadian Heritage acknowledging WMAC(NS)'s letter to the Minister regarding the development of regulations for National Parks in the ISR.

Ron Larsen explained that Parks Canada currently has no mechanism to put quotas in place in National Parks. However the new Canada National Parks Act allows for Parks to make regulations. So what is needed now is for regulations to be developed so that quotas to be put in place. This regulation is now being fast tracked through the federal Department of Justice. It doesn't specify the species or any numbers which will make it easier to adjust as required. WMAC(NS) will be shortly be receiving a letter saying that Parks hopes the regulations will be in place by the fall of 2003.

F. Financial Report

Council members reviewed the budget and September statement. There is still \$7500 unallocated in the budget. The Secretariat noted that funds will be required to cover the Council's participation in the upcoming grizzly bear workshop. Members agreed to consider the allocation to this item at the December meeting.

The Secretariat commented that the Council needs to pass a motion regarding the allocation of funds to the library project. The Council agreed to an allocation of \$5000 at a previous meeting but no motion was made.

Motion

to allocate \$5000 from the Council's budget to the project to digitally catalogue the WMAC(NS) library.

Moved: Martin Raillard
Second: Herbert Felix
Motion carried

Doug commented that it would be more useful if the financial information was presented in columns that show what has been spent, the variance and the percentage spent to date. The Secretariat agreed to do this for future meetings.

I. Old Business

1. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Secretariat distributed the final draft of the Conservation Plan to members. The Chair reviewed the comments received from various sources and indicated

where and how the comments had been addressed. Comments were received from WMAC(NWT), the EIRB, Parks Canada and the Yukon Government. In addition, Martin Raillard was able to update the plan in regards to the recent Species at Risk initiatives. Letters have been written to all who submitted comments that provides information on how their concerns were dealt with.

The Chair clarified that the Plan will be forwarded to the various government Ministers as a recommendation as opposed to trying to get everyone to sign off on it.

Motion

to recommend Volume 2 of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife and Conservation Management Plan to the appropriate ministers.

Moved: Martin Raillard
Second: Danny C. Gordon
Motion carried

The web version of the Plan will be ready as soon as the recent editorial changes are made. Some copies of the Plan should be made available on CD as well as in hard copy.

Members agreed that the North Slope Conference will be a good venue to review the Plan.

2. Grizzly Bear Management

The Chair reviewed the agenda for the upcoming grizzly bear workshop in Inuvik Oct 15-17. The workshop will be really comprehensive and will cover issues such as quotas, harvesting, research and problem bear management. There will be representatives from the Yukon and NWT governments, each community in the ISR, both WMACs, Parks Canada and the IGC. Herbert Felix and Danny C. Gordon agreed to attend on behalf of the Council.

G. Report from the Chair

The Chair recently attended the Joint Secretariat Board meeting. These meetings are held about two or three time a year. Discussions usually focus on policies and resources of the Joint Secretariat.

At this last meeting there was a discussion about the need to begin to think about the next round of IFA implementation funding negotiations. DIAND wants to start the negotiations early in the New Year and finish by December 2003. These negotiations have implications for all agencies, including the co-management

bodies and government agencies (CWS, Yukon, Parks Canada, GNWT, DFO) that receive IFA funding. The co-management bodies have tentatively agreed to meet for a day before Christmas to assess their needs regarding future IFA funding. In the past, there has been an effort to present a coordinated approach to the federal government. There may be a need to bring together all affected agencies in the New Year if there is a desire to do so. It is very important to have adequate planning meetings before sitting down with DIAND.

DIAND already knows that there is an expectation on the part of the co-management bodies for an increase in funding and finds this desire for an increase understandable. But government agency interest in increased funds may be met with a “cool” response from the federal government.

The Council needs to review its budget over the last eight years to assess where funding has been tight. One example of this is funds that have been available to attend other meetings. There is also going to be a need for funds to implement North Slope related management plans. The Chair added that it would be nice to see funding for the implementation of the Conservation and Wildlife Management Plan come into the Council's budget.

Action 02-10-04: The Council will review its budget and spending over the past eight years and identify areas where more funds are needed in the future.

The Chair also reported that Bill C-2, An Act to establish a process for assessing the environmental and socio-economic effects of certain activities in Yukon, has had its first reading in Parliament. The Council needs to review section 90 of the Bill and comment. Herbert noted that the Bill recognizes the role of the EISC but the Yukon Government will still be able to go ahead and do its own screening on the Yukon North Slope. This will result in two separate screenings that could produce two different outcomes. Members agreed to contract Bob Gibson to do a review of Bill C-2 and report back to the Council.

Action 02-10-05: WMAC(NS) will contract Bob Gibson to do a review of Bill C-2 and provide the Council with his comments if and when it is clear that the parliamentary standing committee will receive comments on the bill.

I. Old Business (continued)

6. Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan

Members reviewed the recent correspondence related to the Herschel Island Management Plan. YTG has responded to the Council's recent letters by saying that the management direction for the park is in the operational plans and is not needed in the higher level strategic plan.

Members commented that the additional plans, such as the Interpretive Plan, were done in 1990 so they are not current. They contain nothing prescriptive on some of the items the Council has raised. For example, there is no indication of priorities. Issues are recognized but there are no firm programs or commitment to actions.

There needs to be a level of comfort in the strategic level plan to have a clear direction. Fundamental questions like what are the priorities have to be answered. There has to be a plan for the future with a clear indication of management direction. There's no sense of priority, urgency or commitment on some of the bigger issues.

We have to make sure there is a connection between the strategic plan and the operational plans so that anyone can see the whole picture.

Dave Ladret joined the meeting and was welcomed by the Chair. Dave distributed copies of the Herschel Island Territorial Park 2002 Seasonal Report, prepared by Richard Gordon.

Dave also distributed a summary of companion plans associated with the Herschel Island Management Plan. Dave commented that these additional plans are prescriptive and provide more detail about how the park should be operated. Dave said that he sees the Management Plan as being the strategic plan and the others provide the operation detail. Information not found in the Management Plan is found in these lower level plans. For example the interpretive strategy address issues such as the number of visitors and group size. Some people are thinking their concerns are not being addressed in the Plan but, in fact, they are being addressed in other companion plans.

Council members made the following comments:

- A strategic level plan shouldn't include operational details but it can be prescriptive. It should drive the lower level plans.
- To what extend are the 1990 plans consistent with the revised Management Plan?
- While issues raised by the Council may be addressed in the Interpretive Strategy, they still haven't been resolved. An example of this is the management of visitors. There's nothing prescriptive in the Management Plan regarding how to manage or what is needed.
- There has to be a level of comfort at a strategic level. There's no sense of a timeline indicating when an issue be addressed.
- We are being asked to wait ten years to review the Management Plan again but there is nothing in the operational plans to assure that what needs to be done will be done.
- A strategic plan has to identify actions in a prescriptive manner without getting into operations

- Issues are well identified but there's nothing to indicate who will be responsible or when.
- Strategic priorities have to be identified in the Management Plan.
- How do you draw all the plans together into an annual operations plan?
- One document that contains all the information needed is preferred over having many companion plans that are hard to coordinate. We don't want to overwhelm people with plans.
- The Plan can have greater clarity and focus without becoming operational. For example, Ivvavik National Park Management Plan provides a good reference for how to do this. Core activities should be identified so they can be included in strategic level plan.
- Need to provide more information in strategic plan rather than leaving it up to lower level plans which may not be reviewed.
- How can you decide the priorities when developing yearly plans? What is the overall goal? These should be addressed at the strategic level then it will be easier to decide what to be doing year by year.
- There needs to be more detail of the big picture.
- There is a benefit to the strategic plan becoming a benchmark to measure implementation.
- The plan will be recommended to the Minister therefore there will be an obligation for YTG to implement it.
- There is a need to bring in details without getting too operational.
- Some actions could be made clearer.
- An Implementation Plan should include the setting of priorities and who will do it.

Members agreed that it would be useful to have a one-day working meeting to go through the plan and make suggestions for additions to give the plan more focus and clarity. Meeting participants should include Hillarie Zimmermann, Darielle Talarico, Dorothy Cooley, Doug Larsen and Danny C. Gordon, Richard Gordon as well as Dave Ladret and Lindsay Staples

Action 02-10-06: WMAC(NS) will facilitate a one-day working meeting to review the Herschel Island Management Plan.

Meeting participants should be sent copies of the Ivvavik National Park Management Plan, the latest version of the Herschel Island Management Plan and related correspondence to and from the Council.

Dave stressed the importance of developing an Implementation Plan to cover the next five years.

7. Parks Canada Report

Ron Larsen provided the following information related to Ivvavik National Park:

- The rafting season started two weeks late due to ice conditions.
- There were a total of 150 visitors to the park over the summer.
- Parks is looking at a site on the Babbage River for tourism development, in conjunction with Arctic Nature Tours. Parks is doing an environmental assessment for aircraft landing. This assessment will go to the EISC.
- Water monitoring was completed.
- The Firth had to be closed for several days due to a high concentration of grizzly bears. Rafters were delayed and some parties had to be flown out to Herschel.
- Parks has put in some storm surge props along the coast.
- Archaeological site monitoring continues
- Campsite monitoring has found that some areas showed more signs of use. This was probably due to the rafters having to wait for the river to reopen.

Ron also reported that there has been a change in structure in Parks Canada. Some law enforcement duties are being cut back so they will now be doing more resource management. There is now a position called 'Chief of Conservation Management' that is held by Ed McLean. The Warden Service will be more of a unit so that staff can move around and not just assigned to one park.

Danny C. Gordon asked if Parks was planning on doing anything to repair the buildings at Clarence Lagoon. They would be easy to fix up so that they don't look so bad. Ron replied that Parks hasn't been given any clear direction about what to do. Questions remain about how to restore them. Parks has to keep up the heritage standard. Ron added that he will talk to Cathy Cockney to get some information on the issue.

Wednesday October 9, 2002

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

Guests: Gloria Goulet- Co-ordinator, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge,
COSEWIC Secretariat
Wendy Nixon- Co-ordinator, NatureServe Yukon
Tom Jung -Yukon Government, Department of Environment
Barney Smith- Yukon Government, Department of Environment

The Chair welcomed Gloria Goulet (Co-ordinator, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge, COSEWIC Secretariat), Wendy Nixon (Co-ordinator, NatureServe Yukon) and Tom Jung (Yukon Government, Department of Environment)

9. Yukon Species at Risk

The Chair reported that he had met with YTG officials the previous month in order to receive a briefing on Yukon's intentions to introduce legislation this fall to address the conservation and protection of Species at Risk in the Yukon. Yukon Government's Department of Environment was represented by Thomas Jung, Len Mychasiw and Kent Jingfors. Doug Larsen also sat in on the meeting. A Memo to File on that meeting is included in the binders. Also in the binders is YTG's response to questions raised in the Council's submission to the federal government concerning Bill C-5. This document was tabled by YTG at the meeting. The Chair reported that the meeting was very useful.

Tom Jung began a presentation on the Yukon's Species at Risk process by reporting that YTG started the process last December and since then they have moved very fast. In 1998 all provinces and territories signed an accord on endangered species. One key element of this accord was a commitment by each jurisdiction to develop legislation. YTG is trying to build on the principle of the Accord and in keeping with the federal legislation. The Yukon Government has prepared a draft Bill after completing a consultation process that included workshops and meetings. There was a rush to get the Bill to house this year, but now that there's going to be an election, its consideration has been delayed. There is a lot of support to keep the process going so hopefully the Bill will be dealt with soon after the election.

Under the legislation, YTG will be responsible for vertebrate species currently included in the Wildlife Act, excluding species managed by DFO or CWS. The legislation will enable the formation of a Yukon Species at Risk Advisory Committee (YSRAC). This committee would do status assessments for the whole Yukon. YTG hopes to establish a 'one-window' system so all agencies that have some SAR mandate will be able to get together. For species not covered by the Yukon Wildlife Act, the Yukon SAR legislation also includes a mechanism which would allow YSRAC to make recommendations to the appropriate Ministers. Part 13 of the Yukon Wildlife Act would be the model for the integration of the IFA with the Yukon Species at Risk Act.

Tom showed a chart that illustrated the processes at both the federal and territorial levels. The framework consists of assessments, response, listing and management. The federal government looks at how well the species is doing at a national level. The Yukon can still identify species of concern in the Territory and take action locally.

Danny C. Gordon commented that he isn't seeing many shorebirds any more and asked how this absence and his observation fits in to the process. Tom responded that this is the kind of information that is important to capture in the process. The Chair added that the first place to hear this kind of information should be in a WMAC meeting. From there the issue would be raised with the YSRAC. Eventually it could make it to the federal level. It's important to ensure this information is included in WMAC(NS)'s species reports. The Council is currently working in isolation. YSARAC will provide a venue everyone to work together and pass on their concerns.

Tom outlined the purpose of the Yukon Species at Risk Advisory Committee. YSRAC provides advice that includes recommendations on management planning. It will be the government's responsibility to develop the actual management plan. YSRAC is not a regulatory body. YTG is now considering committee membership of 4-5 years. The proposal is for permanent members plus alternates to ensure there is a mechanism to allow for the best person to be present when needed. YSARAC will report its work to the Minister. It will be a transparent process with all information available in the public registry. Any management decisions related to listed species would require consultation with the Minister after developing a management plan. The Chair commented that the challenge will be bringing different institutional cultures together.

Tom acknowledged that it will be expensive to have these meetings and that for now, as no funding is available, agencies would have to provide their own. The Chair suggested that the required funding requirements could be included as part of the IFA implementation funding discussions.

Members raised a number of questions as to what level of information YSRAC will want, especially in relation to traditional knowledge. What level is enough? For example is it enough to ask one scientist and one elder? Or is a larger consensus required? Tom replied that in general the acceptable level of knowledge will vary from species to species. It will be the role of YSRAC to determine if there is enough information to proceed with assessments or they can say that the data is deficient. The Chair commented that it is important to pull all the information together in a way that will be useful and integrated into a larger body of work.

Tom concluded by saying that in the Yukon if a species is listed as endangered or threatened the government will have two years to complete a management plan. The federal government only has a year to complete a management plan for a federally listed species.

10. COSEWIC

The Chair welcomed Gloria Goulet, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Co-ordinator at the COSEWIC Secretariat.

Gloria began by giving an overview of Species at Risk and the role of COSEWIC. She also explained COSEWIC's view of aboriginal traditional knowledge and how it will be integrated into the COSEWIC process.

Gloria noted that during a meeting the previous week, the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) Subcommittee of COSEWIC decided that one of the committee's Co-chairs would come from the north. They are still not sure what that means as it could be someone from a co-management group or an aboriginal representative. ATK Subcommittee is also currently reviewing its terms of reference. The COSEWIC Secretariat role is to facilitate and coordinate. It is up to the ATK Subcommittee to work out its own role and process. The recent call for membership in the ATK Subcommittee is asking for scientific and traditional knowledge experts.

Gloria asked if the Council members think that the current COSEWIC status reports include enough traditional knowledge. The Chair replied that while some reports do contain some TK, the bigger question of how much traditional knowledge is appropriate and adequate still needs to be worked out.

Gloria acknowledged that there needs to be a cooperative effort to establish a status report. The Wildlife Management Boards (WMBs) have a broad perspective regarding species in their management areas that they can contribute to the process. When developing a species report it's too much work to go to all the communities individually. The WMBs can provide the community perspective.

The Chair commented that the Council should be looking at individual species and completing assessments before responding to COSEWIC. For example, there is a workshop coming up in Inuvik that will be considering grizzly bear populations and management in the ISR. The motivation for this workshop is coming from ISR. It's not being done in response to a federal inquiry.

Gloria suggested that rather than giving the Council a status report to review, COSEWIC could inform the Council six months in advance that they intent to begin to review a species. Meaningful participation of co-management boards should mean more than commenting on status reports. The ATK Subcommittee now considering how to involve the co-management boards.

Tom noted that it is not just the ATK Subcommittee of COSEWIC that is lobbying for the inclusion of traditional knowledge.

Members agreed that it is important for the Inuvialuit co-management boards to get together to discuss these issues and form a united and consistent response. The meeting in April can be an opportunity to inform COSEWIC. It would be useful to organize a half day formal co-ordinated presentation of all the Inuvialuit co-management boards.

A suggestion was made that COSEWIC could also take this opportunity to meet with all Wildlife Management Boards to get their perspective directly. It would be a chance for COSEWIC to learn more about what the WMBs are doing.

Martin Raillard noted that there is enough time to develop a proposal outlining how the Inuvialuit co-management boards would like to be involved with COSEWIC. The April meeting should be more than a 'get to know each other' session

11. NatureServe Yukon

Wendy Nixon (Co-ordinator, NatureServe Yukon) explained that NatureServe Yukon has been established to create a central library of information about species and plants communities of conservation concern. It is part of a larger network of Conservation Data Centres (CDC) established to track information on rare species. Many other jurisdictions throughout North, Central and South America have CDCs. The initial focus of these information libraries was on mammals and birds but now they are including rare plants and insects. The information gathered will be put on maps.

NatureServe Yukon was initiated by Environment Canada and the Yukon Government's Department of Environment in the spring of 2002. It is looking for other partners to provide funding and information. Meetings have already been

held in some communities with the Renewable Resource Councils. NatureServe would like the Council to provide comments on which species should be considered.

Wendy distributed a draft brochure that is being developed to provide more information on NatureServe Yukon, including what the center is and who is involved.

When asked the applications of the information being gathered by the CDC, Wendy replied that this will depend on who is asking for it. Industry and other users would include those in YSRAC or those doing environmental screening and assessment. WMAC (NS) could use the information for conservation planning. It will be important to work together to determine the priorities. The CDC won't release any sensitive information. This information would be protected. Any information provided by First Nations or Inuvialuit in confidence will be kept as such.

Next round of General Status Assessments has to be complete by 2005. The COSEWIC Subcommittee on General Status Assessments will suggest which groups should be assessed. The CDC will produce the first draft of the General Status Assessments for the Yukon and will then travel to the communities as part of the review process.

The Chair noted that it would be valuable for the all the Co-management bodies to know what species the CDC is looking at. Then it will be possible to factor this information into our work.

The Chair commented on the process for updating and completing a traditional knowledge assessment of the Council's Wildlife Population Status Reports. The Council has had discussions with Barney Smith about how to include traditional knowledge in our assessments and has allocated \$5000 from the Council's budget to the project. When updates are being done on these reports, it will be important to be mindful of what others need on a national and territorial level. The Chair distributed a proposal prepared by Barney that outlines a process for obtaining the information that will be useful to others and can be integrated into larger bodies of work.

Barney noted that WMAC(NS) has 34 wildlife population status reports that need to be reviewed by communities. There is also a need to incorporate traditional knowledge in these reports. Many processes need information, so they will be looking at what kind of information the Council has. The question is how to develop information without repeatedly going back to the communities. Barney proposed that the Council should pick a number of species (6-10) and have local experts provide comments. Scientific updates and reviews should be done as

well. This will produce a fuller report for distribution and inquiries as to the usefulness of the product. WMAC(NS) should recommend which species are a priority. Barney noted that he had reviewed the 2000 COSEWIC assessments and found that only one included traditional knowledge.

Council members agreed on the following steps:

1. The Council should update the Wildlife Population Status Reports based on the proposal put forward by Barney. The work should be done in consideration of the needs of various agencies. The Council needs to select the priority species.
2. The Council should begin to think through the mechanics of our relationship with all the other agencies with a Species at Risk mandate, including COSEWIC and the ATK Subcommittee. The IFA co-management bodies as a group should also think about these relationships.
3. The IFA co-management bodies and the IGC, if interested, should request a half-day meeting with COSEWIC members, when COSEWIC is in Whitehorse in the spring. It will be an opportunity to acquaint COSEWIC with the activities of IFA bodies. It would also be an opportunity to advance ideas and have a discussion about the mechanics of the relationship between COSEWIC and the IFA co-management bodies.

Members agreed that it will be important to distinguish between the roles of the NWT and the Yukon in a presentation. It would be good to work through some examples that consider whether or not there is a Council status report. Use this framework for a high profile species the Council has been working on such as grizzly bears, a species that the FJMC and federal government have been working on such as beluga, and one species that has a low profile.

Action 02-10-07: Martin Raillard will develop a proposal outlining how the Inuvialuit co-management boards could be involved in the COSEWIC process.

Action 02-10-08: The Secretariat will contact Wendy Nixon, Tom Jung and Gloria Goulet to obtain their agencies' list of priority species. These lists are to be considered when the Council determines the species to be included in the update of the Wildlife Population Status Reports.

Action 02-10-09: WMAC(NS) and the FJMC (and possibly WMAC(NWT)) will write to the Yukon Government to forward the Council's support of the YTG Species at Risk process.

12. Members' Reports

Martin Raillard distributed a report on Heather Swystun's work on tundra swam in the Mackenzie Delta. Heather has found that nesting success is down in areas related to oil and gas activities, but she needs more information before drawing any conclusions.

Martin reported that the Vuntut National Park vegetation map will be finished by November. The area of Ivvavik National Park south of the coastal plain still needs to be done.

Doug Larsen suggested it would be useful for the Council to obtain an update on activities in Vuntut National Park from time to time.

Action 02-10-10: WMAC(NS) will invite Bob Lewis, Parks Canada, to one of its meetings in Whitehorse to provide the Council with an update on activities in Vuntut National Park.

Martin also reported that he attended a CAFF meeting in Sweden in August. There was a lot of interest in the Yukon's Conservation Data Center. It is the first to be set up in the north. There was also a lot of interest in Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op's community monitoring program. Canada is on the leading edge of data collection and community monitoring.

Herbert Felix reported that he had just attended a course on pipeline development at the Pembina Institute in Calgary. Herbert also reported that the Environmental Impact Review Board will be considering two projects- Western Geco's proposed activity and a proposal to look for diamonds on Holman island.

The Secretariat reported that Kirsten Madsen has almost completed the muskox fact sheets and the school unit.

13. Muskox Management Plan

A recent draft of the Muskox Management Plan was reviewed by the members. The Chair reported that the changes suggested at the April meeting have been incorporated along with comments received from Doug Larsen. Comments received from John Nagy were reviewed by the members as well.

Action 02-10-11: WMAC(NS) will distribute copies of the draft Canadian North Slope Muskox Management Plan to all agencies that sent participants to the 2001 Muskox Management Workshop, in Aklavik, as well as to relevant agencies in Alaska. The covering letter will ask the recipients for their review comments on the draft plan.

Doug Larsen commented that YTG is putting forward legislation to remove muskox from the list of Specially Protected Wildlife. It is being classified as big game instead, so that it can be hunted. This proposed change will have to go out for consultation.

14. Review of COSEWIC Wolverine Status Report

Members agreed that the report is a well written scientific document but it doesn't provide any local perspective. First paragraph in the section on population sizes and trends in the Yukon contradicts the last. The reference (on page 9) to WMAC(NS) species reports indicates that there is a major threat to the population due to harvest pressure. That is not what the WMAC(NS) report says. It should also be noted that there is a documented harvest to support trapping activities.

Throughout the document there are references made to First Nations. First Nations doesn't include Inuvialuit.

Action 02-10-12: Members will provide the Secretariat with any further comments on the COSEWIC Wolverine Status Report by mid- October. Once all comments are received, WMAC(NS) will respond to COSEWIC.

15. Ivvavik National Park Management Plan

The Secretariat distributed an extract from the Council's April 2002 meeting summarizing the Council's comments on the Ivvavik National Park Management Plan. These comments were submitted to Parks Canada and have been incorporated into the September 2002 draft Plan.

The Chair commented that it is the Council's role to write a letter to the Minister to recommend the Plan. Questions were raised about the effect that non-motorized access (except for Inuvialuit pursuing subsistence activities) will have on Inuvialuit and others pursuing economic activities in the Park. This prohibition includes the use of snowmobiles and motor boats. Council members agreed that there is a need to get clarification and more information from Alan Fehr on this issue.

Motion

To recommend the Ivvavik National Park of Canada Management Plan to the federal minister responsible for Parks Canada.

Moved: Herbert Felix

Second: Danny C. Gordon

The motion was tabled and will be reviewed and formally considered pending the receipt of further information regarding the issues of non-motorized access to the Park.

Action 02-10-13: The Chair will contact Alan Fehr to get clarification on how non-Inuvialuit prohibitions will affect Inuvialuit economic activities in Ivvavik National Park.

16. Yukon Wildlife Act Regulations

The Chair reported that a meeting is planned for the end of November to look at proposed changes to the trapping regulations. It will be organized by the Yukon Government. The regulations need to be changed in order to reflect the provisions of the IFA. Danny and Herbert both agreed to attend this meeting on behalf of WMAC(NS).

K. Next Meeting

Members agreed that the next meeting would be held in Aklavik and Inuvik the week of December 9, 2002.

The Council agreed to decide on species priorities for the traditional knowledge study at this meeting. The subject can also be discussed at a public meeting in Aklavik and with the HTC.

L. Adjournment

Motion

To adjourn.

Moved: Herbert Felix
Second: Danny C. Gordon
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date