



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

P.O. Box 31539, Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 6K8 Canada

Telephone: (867) 633-5476 Fax: (867) 633-6900

E-mail: wmacns@web.ca www.taiga.net/wmac

MINUTES

WMAC(NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

**Aklavik Council Chambers
Aklavik, NWT**

May 5-6, 2003

Monday May 5, 2003

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member - Yukon Government
Dorothy Cooley - Alternate- Yukon Government
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

Guests: Ron Larsen, Parks Canada, Inuvik
Ian McDonald- Parks Canada, Inuvik
Billy Archie
Frank Elanik

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.

Motion

To adopt the agenda

Moved: Danny C. Gordon
Second: Doug Larsen
Motion carried

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

Members reviewed the minutes of the December 2002 meeting. Danny C. Gordon inquired if Parks Canada had received any correspondence from the AHTC regarding moving the cabin at Komakuk in order to make it more accessible to boats. Ron Larsen responded that the cabin will probably have to stay where it is as it will now be very difficult to move it.

Motion

To adopt the minutes of the December 2002 meeting.

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

D. Review of Action Items

Members reviewed the report in the meeting binder on the status of action items from the December meeting. The following comments were made:

Action 02-12-03: Council members will review the maps contained in the Muskox Management Plan and make suggestions to the Secretariat for changes or additions.

This action is to be discussed later in the meeting.

Action 02-12-07: Council members will determine WMAC(NS)'s needs for information that can be obtained through the programs of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op.

This action is to be discussed later in the meeting.

Action 02-12-09: The Secretariat will distribute copies of the CD titled "Compilation of Background Information for the Western Arctic" produced by DFO to Doug Larsen, Dorothy Cooley and Alan Fehr.

This Secretariat reported that this action has been completed.

Action 02-12-10: WMAC(NS) will write to the Yukon Government to forward the Council's recommendations on themes and location for the 2003 North Slope Conference.

This action is to be discussed later in the meeting.

Action 02-12-05 : The Secretariat will write to Myrna Button to request a full accounting of the time spent on the library project and to ask for documentation of the activities performed.

The Secretariat reported that Myrna did provide a full accounting of the time spent on the library project. However there are still some problems associated with the project that need to be cleared up before Myrna is paid.

E. Correspondence

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

- A letter from Jim Kenyan, Yukon Minister of the Environment, in reference to the Territory's proposed Species at Risk legislation. Doug Larsen commented that the Yukon legislation will be introduced to the legislature in the fall.
- A letter from Alan Latourelle, Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada to the Chairs of WMAC(NWT) and WMAC(NS) regarding amendments to the Canada National Parks Act wildlife regulations that will allow Parks Canada to issue tags (or endorse tags issued by YTG) for subsistence harvesting in National Parks.

When Council members asked about how much more is involved in getting the regulations in place, Ron Larsen provided some information on what has been done to date and what still has to happen. Ron added that he is hoping the work will be completed by the fall.

- A letter from the Aboriginal Working Group for Species at Risk, to the Chairs of WMAC(NWT), WMAC(NS) and FJMC.

The Secretariat distributed copies of the draft Terms of Reference for the Aboriginal Working Group for Species at Risk. The Chair commented that the Inuvialuit Co-management boards need to determine what they see as their relationship with the ATK Sub-committee before the COSEWIC meeting in November. There is a question as to how the information collected by the WMBs is best used and incorporated in species assessments. The ATK Sub-committee was set up to address issues in areas where there are no WMBs.

The ATK Sub-committee has only one seat of the 29 on COSEWIC. It would be better for the WMBs to deal directly with COSEWIC. The Chair added that the three Inuvialuit co-management boards need to get together to decided on a co-ordinated view of their role. The next step will then be to see how this view lines up with the positions taken by the other WMBs.

Action 03-05-01 : The Secretariat will send the most recent list of Canadian Species at Risk to Danny C. Gordon.

F. Report from the Chair

The Chair referred to the summary of activities of the Council (December 2002 to March 2003), in the correspondence section of the binder, that was prepared for the March IGC meeting. The Chair provided updates on a number of activities.

The Chair reported that the interviews conducted by Barney Smith, as part of the project to include traditional knowledge in the Council's wildlife population status reports, were completed in March. The public meeting scheduled for the evening will be an opportunity for the community to contribute more information about the species included in the study. The Chair thanked Danny C. Gordon for all the help he gave to Barney.

The Chair attended a one day meeting in Whitehorse in January to discuss possible revisions to the Yukon trapping regulations to bring them into conformity with the IFA. Danny C. Gordon also attended the meeting. A draft of the amended trapping regulations has been circulated for review.

The Council prepared a submission to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development detailing funding requirements for the period 2004-2009. The Chair attended a meeting in Edmonton in February to present these requirements to DIAND representatives. No concerns have been raised to date by DIAND concerning the WMAC(NS) submission. DIAND may respond in writing to address the requests for increased funding, subject to a decision by the ADM responsible for implementation funding. DIAND expects to submit the IFA implementation funding package to Treasury Board this summer and have a final decision by mid-October.

The Secretariat added that the Annual Gathering of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op was held in Whitehorse in March. Danny C. Gordon attended on behalf of the Council. There was a workshop to update and review the Coop's indicators and another one to consider communication products and protocol.

G. Financial Report

Members reviewed two documents related to the Council's year-end financial report for 2002-2003- a summary of revenues and expenses and the draft Review Engagement Report prepared by Kim Tanner.

The Secretariat explained the spending in a number of categories. There was a balance of \$9588 remaining in the budget at the end of the year. Most of this was allocated to the library project. These funds have been carried over into the new fiscal year as there are still some aspects of this project that need to be clarified by the contractor before payment is made.

The Secretariat noted that a Review Engagement Report is prepared every year. It is not as in-depth as an audit but is sufficient to meet the Council's needs. Once approved by the Council a copy of the Report will be submitted to YTG. A copy is also included in the Council's Term Report.

Resolution

To accept as accurate the Review Engagement Report for 2002-2003 (dated March 31, 2002) as prepared by Kim Tanner.

Moved: Doug Larsen
Second: Herbert Felix
Motion carried

H. New Business

1. 2003-2004 Wildlife Management and Research Proposals

Council members reviewed the proposals for wildlife research for 2003-2004 as submitted by the Yukon Government, the Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks Canada. Doug Larsen noted that the amount available for YTG is less this year because of funds being allocated to the North Slope Conference.

Dorothy Cooley presented the summaries of the proposals tabled by the Yukon Government, as follows:

a) Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program

The object of this project is to maintain 8-10 satellite radio collars on cows in the Porcupine caribou herd to document annual migration routes and winter range use. When collars die they need to be replaced. This is an ongoing cooperative effort with many agencies contributing to the costs of system fees, data recovery and collar purchase. YTG proposed an allocation of \$2000 of IFA funds toward the costs of system fees and data recovery. Dorothy noted that Parks Canada is proposing to contribute \$4000 toward this program this year.

b) Porcupine Caribou Conventional Collaring, March 2004

The object of this project is to maintain between 80 and 100 conventional radio collars on the herd to assist in the location of the herd during composition counts and censuses. The collars are also used for the location and identification of individual caribou and have been crucial in documenting the importance of ANWR to calving caribou. Each year, as radio collared caribou die of natural causes, more collars need to be placed on caribou in order to maintain the desired number of collars on the herd. The total cost for deploying the conventional collars is \$23,750. There are additional costs of approximately \$8,300 to partner agencies for the purchase of the new collars.

A discussion was held as to the number of agencies contributing to work related to the Porcupine caribou and their level of funding support. Past contributions for collar purchase, satellite system fees and data retrieval have come from the Canadian Wildlife Service, Government of the Northwest Territories, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, Ivvavik National Park, Vuntut National Park, YTG IFA Wildlife Programs, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Dorothy reported that the overall annual budget for the PCH is about \$135,000. The IFA contribution for this year is proposed to be about \$25,000.

c) Aklavik harvest data collection (April '03 and March '04)

The object of this project is to document harvest of moose, caribou, sheep, swans and furbearers in the Yukon and NWT by Inuvialuit hunters in Aklavik, from January to December 2003. YTG has done this collection in Aklavik for two years now. A local person will be hired again to conduct the interviews twice during the year. Some funds are also required for setting up the program and for data entry. John Nagy will be setting up a similar program in Inuvik. The GNWT and YTG will be able to share the harvest information they obtain. An allocation of \$3000 is proposed for this program in Aklavik.

The Chair noted that YTG should have an access protocol in place to cover the information obtained. It is important to be clear about who can use the data, when and how. It may be possible to carry over the protocol used in the Inuvialuit Harvest Study.

Action 03-05-02 : The Council will review the Inuvialuit Harvest Study access protocol at its next meeting. The Council will also ensure that the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee has had an opportunity to review the protocol and supports its application to the current harvest collection program in Aklavik.

d) Muskox satellite program 2002-2005

The objective of this program is to maintain 8 satellite radio collars on North Slope muskox in order to determine their habitat and movements. The spring survey is done to assess the population and includes the determination of

yearling survival. Funds are needed to cover the costs of the survey that was completed in April. Funds are also needed to cover the costs of data retrieval and fuel. Dorothy added that Parks Canada will be tabling the proposal for the additional work that could take place in the summer.

e) Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring

The objective of this program is to reinforce previous Ranger training to identify vegetation and terrain units. Catherine Kennedy will go to Herschel again this summer to train the rangers and to do some of the monitoring work. Members questioned whether there is money in the Herschel Island budget to cover the costs of this ongoing work and agreed that this issue should be raised with the Parks Branch.

f) Flora of Herschel Island - pamphlet printing

This proposal covers layout and printing costs for a pamphlet of an updated checklist of the flora of Herschel Island. As a by-product of the recent ecological monitoring project, YTG has compiled an updated list of plant species occurring on the island. The format will be similar to the Birds of Herschel Island pamphlet. This pamphlet will provide visitors a current checklist to follow when on the island. Based on costs for the Birds pamphlet, layout and printing costs are estimated to be about \$3,000 for 3,000 copies. The information is ready to be sent to the printer for layout and printing. Pamphlets will be available by the peak of visitor season. Council members expressed the view that this funding should come out of the YTG Parks Branch budget for Herschel Island.

g) Herschel Island raptor and fox survey

The objective of this survey is to document the abundance and distribution of raptors, and foxes on Herschel Island. The survey would include any large birds that can be seen from the air. The survey would establish base-line information to compare to previous information collected on the island and to assist in setting up a new ground monitoring program. Herschel Island staff will be responsible for the ongoing monitoring. The survey would cost \$2000 for two hours of helicopter time, as the helicopter will already be in the park for the muskox survey.

Members agreed that this is a good opportunity to get some information about the populations of raptors and foxes on Herschel Island.

h) Herschel Island Permafrost project

This project is being carried out by Chris Burn, Carleton University, to obtain information on ground temperature warming on Herschel Island. In summer 2002 an unsuccessful attempt was made to install a temperature cable to 50-m depth. In summer 2003, Chris will make another attempt at installing the deep cable. He will also establish a snow course for long-term monitoring of snow depth, active-layer thickness, and near-surface ground temperature. The Herschel Island Rangers will be assisting him. Chris has requested \$2000 to cover the cost of some of his equipment. He pays for all his other costs from his

own budget. Herschel Island staff will be responsible for the ongoing monitoring. Council members agreed that this is a good project to support.

i) Richardson Mountain Sheep survey

The objective of this program is to conduct a sheep survey in the Richardson Mountains, in late June 2003. The surveys have been done every five years. However, with the decrease in population and the increase in hunting, the surveys should now be done every two years. The objectives are to obtain a current estimate of population size and productivity, to obtain information on the distribution of sheep and to recommend allowable total harvest of full curl rams. The cost to survey the Yukon portion of the area is \$9000. Funding has been requested from other agencies. The contribution requested from IFA funds is \$2000.

j) Grizzly Bear population and movement in the YNS

YTG is proposing to initiate a grizzly bear study on the North Slope. The study will be set up to obtain information on the population size, birth rate, death rate, and movement. Population estimates and estimates of birth rates and death rates for the YNS region are almost 30 years old. Current harvest quotas are based on a combination of these old estimates and estimates from other regions of the ISR. No grizzly bear monitoring program exists or has existed on the YNS, so there is no way to determine if the grizzly bear population has increased, or if birth rates and death rates have changed. New research is needed. The proposed study will be conducted over a five-year period. It has five major methodological components: harvest patterns analysis, consolidating local expert knowledge, capture-telemetry, DNA mark-recapture (grizzly bear hair-trapping), and habitat analysis. Some work is still needed to determine how and where the various components of the project will be conducted.

It will be expensive to conduct the study. The YTG carnivore biologist, Ramona Maraj, who is proposing this project, is trying to obtain funding from other sources. Although it may not be possible to conduct any field work this year, any funds obtain can be put towards the purchase of collars.

Council members agreed that this kind of work has been a priority for a long time. It is important to get an improved estimate of population as this is a harvested species. Members agreed to give the project notional support, pending YTG providing a more detailed proposal with information on the study area and design, as well as a workplan. The availability of funds from other sources will also be a factor in determining what work can be done.

Meeting with the Board of Directors of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee

AHTC Board Members present were Evelyn Storr (President), Pat Kasook and Donald Aviugana. Danny C. Gordon is also a member.

The following items were reviewed and discussed:

- **Minutes from the December 2002 meeting between the HTC and WMAC(NS)**- The minutes were reviewed and everyone agreed to adopt them.
- **WMAC(NS)'s traditional knowledge project**- The Chair reported that the public meeting scheduled for that evening will be an opportunity for the community to see the results of the interviews done by Barney Smith in Aklavik in March. Barney will be able to finish up the project after the meeting tonight. Evelyn Storr commented that Barney had a good approach to the project and didn't have any problems. She talked to him a lot before, during and after the interviews. Barney should be given a lot of credit for the amount of time he spent in the community working on the project. Danny C. Gordon agreed that it was really good that Barney spent so much time there. The Chair noted that a protocol was put in place before the interviews started so that everyone was clear about who owns the information and what happens to it after it has been written-up. Evelyn agreed that the protocol is a very useful way to make sure everyone is clear about what will happen to the information once it's collected. The Chair suggested that the AHTC could use the same kind of protocol document for other studies done in the community.

Action 03-05-03: WMAC(NS) will send a copy of the protocol used in the Aklavik traditional knowledge interviews to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.

- **Wildlife Management and Research Proposals for 2003-2004**- The Chair gave a brief summary of the wildlife projects being proposed for the Yukon North Slope this year. He explained that the Council itself only has a small amount of funding to put towards projects. But some projects, such as the recent traditional knowledge interviews, are funded from the Council's own budget. Every year, projects conducted on the North Slope by the Yukon Government, the Canadian Wildlife Service or Parks Canada, using IFA implementation funds are reviewed by the Council. These agencies also contribute some of their own resources, primarily staff time, towards the projects. The Council's role is to review projects and make recommendations based on research priorities identified through discussions with other groups such as the AHTC and the WMAC(NWT), and in various regional

management plans. The Council recommends which projects should be conducted and how the IFA funds should be allocated.

Projects that the Council has reviewed for this year include a number of studies related to the Porcupine caribou herd. These projects help biologist understand what's happening to the population. A multi-year grizzly bear population study has been proposed for the North Slope, as well as the continuation of the muskox surveys. The muskox population has dropped a lot on the North Slope so it is important to continue to monitor these animals closely. YTG, in cooperation with the GNWT, is proposing to do a sheep survey in the Richardson Mountains. There are several projects proposed for Herschel Island, including work related to the monitoring of climate change and a survey of foxes and raptors. A survey of breeding birds on the coast has been proposed, as a follow-up to the work done by Barney. YTG wants to continue to monitor the harvest in Aklavik and will hire someone in the community again to do the work. The Council has also considered proposals put forward by both CWS and Parks Canada to support the work of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op. Once the Council has reviewed all these proposals, members will make their recommendations. A summary of all the recommendations will be distributed to relevant agencies.

When asked about John Nagy's involvement in the grizzly bear study, the Chair reported that John is currently working on bears in the eastern ISR and plans to work his way west. It will be another two years until he has reached the Richardson's. If work in the Yukon is begun at the Alaska border and moves eastward, the two projects can work geographically toward each other.

Evelyn commented that there is so much research every year. The HTC requests reports from the researchers but rarely gets anything. It's very good that the HTC will be getting the report from Barney.

Action 03-05-04: WMAC(NS) will prepare a Fact Sheet to explain IFA Implementation Funding pertaining to the Yukon North Slope: the level of funding and what tasks the funding is used for.

- **Grizzly bear quota and recommendation-** The Council will be passing a resolution at this meeting that recommends an increase in the quota for Aklavik by two bears. The Council has read and supports the AHTC's motion for the geographic allocation of the two additional tags and will incorporate the allocation into the resolution. The recommendation will be forwarded to the appropriate Ministers.

Action 03-05-05: WMAC(NS) will send a copy of the Council's resolution to increase the Aklavik quota on grizzly bears to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.

- **Muskox Management-** Ian McDonald reported that Parks Canada and YTG conducted a muskox survey on the North Slope in April. They covered the same survey area as in previous years. The population count in the Yukon North Slope study over the last 4 years had been stable at about 150 animals but this spring only 85 were counted. Biologists also thought that the population was stable on the Alaskan side with about 500 animals counted annually across the Alaskan North Slope. But recently there has been big drop in the numbers of muskox counted in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Last year the Alaskans counted only 67, down from 168 counted the previous year. This year the number dropped further to 27 muskox. The biologist for ANWR, Pat Reynolds, doesn't think they are moving away but she doesn't know why they are dying off as they are. The quota in Kaktovik is now only 2 bulls. The decline in numbers is possibly due to predation, disease or bad weather.

The Chair added that there are still concerns about the muskox moving east. The draft muskox plan needs to be updated to incorporate the new survey results. The population cannot be considered to be stable if it is declining so much. The Council would like to be able to have a meeting in Aklavik to go through the plan with the HTC and the community once it is finished.

- **Yukon North Slope Conference-** The Chair explained that this YTG organized conference is a requirement under the IFA. It is held every three years. The Council is going to recommend that YTG hold the next one in the fall in Inuvik. But it will be up to YTG to make the final decision on the location.

In reference to the minutes from the previous meeting, Evelyn Storr asked if the Chair had raised the issue of the IGC having a meeting in the community. The Chair replied that he did raise the issue at the last IGC meeting he attended. Evelyn added that the community has been seeing the co-management boards more often, but not the IGC. Beneficiaries want to know what the IGC does. They can get to know about the IGC if the IGC comes to the community.

1. 2003-2004 Wildlife Management and Research Proposals (continued)

Ian McDonald provided members with information on the proposals tabled by Parks Canada, as follows:

a) Support for the Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Collar Project

Parks Canada would like to contribute \$4000 toward this program this year.

b) Productivity of Yukon North Slope muskox

This is the summer component of the North Slope muskox work. This survey answers questions about how the population is changing and why. It is important to know the number of calves that are born each year. It would be good to continue this work on an annual basis as long as the satellite collars are in place. The total cost of the project is \$11,250.

c) Community Based Ecological Monitoring Program and the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Coop

Parks Canada sees the work done by the Coop as an important source of local knowledge. In addition, the Annual gathering is seen as a good opportunity to get folks together to talk about what they are seeing in the region. Parks is proposing to contribute \$5000 toward Coop activities this year.

Members reviewed the proposals tabled by the Canadian Wildlife Service, as follows:

a) Community-based Ecological Monitoring in Aklavik

Funds are being requested by Joan Eamer to support the Community-based monitoring project in Aklavik, conducted every year by the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op. The request is for \$10,000 to be used toward hiring a local researcher in Aklavik to conduct interviews with community experts about the conditions and changes observed during the year. Some funds will also be used for the Annual Gathering.

b) Reproductive Ecology of Tundra Swans in the Mackenzie Delta Region

Heather Swystun is requesting \$5000 to be used towards the final year of her field work. Members agreed to support this work for one final year. No more requests will be considered.

c) Shoreline Breeding Bird Survey on the North Slope

The need to conduct the survey described in this proposal was identified as a result of the traditional knowledge interviews conducted by Barney Smith in Aklavik in March. In these interviews people were uncertain and concerned about some water birds that nest on the shore. The main objective is to secure current data for nesting species which are limited to the Yukon North Slope.

Members raised several questions about the goal of this work. Is it being done to obtain baseline information or to address a gap? The proposal is not clear on this. It is important to understand how the information would fit into information already available and why it is needed. Council members suggested that the consideration of this project be deferred for a year until the CWS biologists can prepare a multi-year plan, showing how this work fits into a longer term goals and objectives.

Action 03-05-06 : WMAC(NS) will invite staff members from the Canadian Wildlife Service office in Whitehorse to attend the Council's meeting in the fall to exchange information about each other's activities.

Council members noted that there are several projects funded year after year and wondered for how much longer the same proposals will be put forward on an annual basis. It is time to move away from repeated requests for what amounts to ongoing funding. Some projects may need to find other sources of funding. Or it may be possible to make other arrangements for projects that the Council would like to see supported on an ongoing basis. For example, there may be a way to assist the Borderlands Coop to secure ongoing funding and relieve the organizers from applying for support every year.

Action 03-05-07: WMAC(NS) will write to the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Coop to indicate the Council's wish to assist the Coop in obtaining multi-year financial support.

Members reviewed all the funding requests and discussed which studies should take priority. Members agreed to recommend the following allocations:

Project	Funding Agency	Amount
Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program	YTG	2,000
Porcupine Caribou Conventional Collaring, March 2004	YTG	23,750
Aklavik harvest data collection (April '03 and March '04)	YTG	3,000
Muskox satellite program 2002-2005	YTG	38,360
Herschel Island Permafrost project	YTG	2,000
Herschel Island raptor and fox survey	YTG	2,000
Richardson Mountain Sheep survey	YTG	2,000
Grizzly Bear population and movement in the YNS	YTG/ PC	80,000
Community-based Ecological Monitoring in Aklavik	CWS	10,000
Reproductive Ecology of Tundra Swans in the Mackenzie Delta Region	CWS	5,000
Productivity of Yukon North Slope muskoxen	PC	11,250
Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Collar Project	PC	4,000
Community Based Ecological Monitoring Program and the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op	PC	5,000
Total		188,360

Motion

to recommended the allocation of funds from IFA wildlife program funding to the following projects: Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program (\$6,000); Porcupine Caribou Conventional Collaring, March 2003 (\$23,750); Aklavik harvest data collection (\$3,000); Muskox Satellite Program (\$38,360); Herschel Island Permafrost Project (\$2000); Herschel Island raptor and fox survey(\$2000); Richardson Mountain Sheep Survey(\$2,000); Grizzly Bear population and movement in the YNS (\$80,000); Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op/ Community-based Ecological Monitoring in Aklavik (\$15,000); Reproductive Ecology of Tundra Swans in the Mackenzie Delta Region (\$5,000); and Productivity of Yukon North Slope muskoxen (\$11,250).

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Doug Larsen

Motion carried

In reference to the grizzly bear study, members agreed that it would be useful to form a working group to discuss study design. Group members should include Dorothy Cooley, Ian McDonald, Evelyn Storr, Danny C. Gordon, Lindsay Staples, John Nagy and Ramona Maraj. Efforts should be made to get this group together before any field work is initiated.

2. Muskox Management

In reference to the November 2002 draft Canadian North Slope Muskox Management Plan, the Chair reported that the Council received comments from a number of different agencies, boards and councils. Copies of the related correspondence are included in the meeting binder.

The next step is to have a full discussion about the comments and concerns that have been expressed. The Chair proposed a meeting in early June in Inuvik to address and incorporate the appropriate suggestions for change. Meeting participants should include Larry Carpenter, John Nagy, Ian McDonald, Dorothy Cooley, Danny C. Gordon, Evelyn Storr and Doug Larsen. The meeting could be set up at the same time as a meeting of the grizzly bear working group. Agencies in Old Crow should be consulted but don't have to participate in the redrafting.

Action 03-05-08: The Secretariat will co-ordinate a working meeting in Inuvik in early June to redraft the November 2002 Canadian North Slope Muskox Management Plan.

Tuesday May 6, 2003

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member- Yukon Government
Dorothy Cooley - Alternate- Yukon Government
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

Guests: Ron Larsen- Parks Canada, Inuvik

3. Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op

At Council meeting in December, Joan Eamer requested that members consider WMAC(NS)'s needs for information that could be obtained through the programs of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op.

Members decided that information useful to the Council would be data on any long-term trends, unusual sightings, such as any unusual observations of muskox, as well as any information that could contribute to the Council's Wildlife Population Status Reports. These reports are updated every three years, so any information about the included species would be of value. Information on important habitat for different species would also be valuable.

Members also agreed that it would be useful to know if the number of active hunters is growing or shrinking. Hunting activity was tracked by the Inuvialuit Harvest Study but, now that it is now longer operating, it would be good if this type of information could be obtained through the Coop's interviews.

4. North Slope Conference

The Chair commented that the Council needs to make a recommendation to YTG about the theme and location of the next North Slope Conference. The conference should be held this fall. The Council usually puts forward the names of several people who would be suitable Chairs, as well.

The Chair added that there will probably be more industry participation at this next conference. The conference is supposed to be a forum to bring all interested parties and stakeholders together. Members agreed that it is important to have a conference that focuses more on informing and involving local people. The Council had considered having the conference provide opportunities for people to participate in field trips out on the North Slope. However, as the

weather is so unreliable in the fall, members agreed that it may be better not to include field trips.

After some discussion, members decided to recommend that the theme of the conference be related to the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. Workshops could focus on the different chapters of the plan, with presentations centred on relevant topics. For example, no one has looked at how the development of oil and gas exploration in the Delta affects the Yukon North Slope. This format would provide an opportunity to review action items, prioritize them, and develop an implementation plan.

Members also agreed to recommend that the conference be held in Inuvik in late October or early November. When forwarding the recommendations to YTG, the letter should note that both Arctic Nature Tours and the Joint Secretariat will be able to offer logistic support.

5. Trapper Regulations

The Chair restated that he and Danny C. Gordon attended a meeting with YTG in January to review draft trapping regulations, as a next step in process to bring the Yukon Wildlife Act into conformity with the IFA. .

Danny commented that he has some concerns about the shortness of the chain on the new modified traps. He said it won't be possible to use these traps unless the chains are longer.

Action 03-05-09: The Secretariat will follow-up with Harvey Jessup regarding Danny C. Gordon's concerns about chain length of the new modified traps.

Doug Larsen commented that if the new regulations have to go out for public consultation it will take a long time to get them in place. Doug added that he doesn't think consultation will be required. The Chair agreed to look into the issue.

6. Parks Canada Report

Ron Larsen reported on activities related to Parks Canada. Parks Canada Wardens have resumed law enforcement duties in the national parks. In order to undertake these duties, each park has to develop a Law Enforcement Plan. Ron has drafted a plan for Ivvavik and will send a copy to the Council.

There has been a change in the organization of the Western Field Unit. The responsibilities of biologists and wardens are being harmonized. Ed McLean is now the Chief of Resource Conservation Function. Ron's new title is Warden

Operations Manager. In addition to his continued responsibilities for Ivvavik National Park, Ron will also address law enforcement and public safety issues.

In reference to the assessment work conducted at Stokes Point, Ron reported that preliminary results show some contamination by DDT and antimony. The work is continuing. Parks Canada has asked the Justice Department for a legal opinion as to who is responsible for clean-up of the site. It could be Parks Canada, DND or DIAND.

Parks has received some funding to improve communications. The improvements will include the installation of a new repeater that will cover the southern portion of Ivvavik, including Margaret Lake.

When asked about the status of the Business Plan, Ron reported that Alan Fehr went to Ottawa the previous week to present the plan to the head office. Ron will ensure that the Council gets a copy of the plan.

7. Species at Risk/ COSEWIC

The Chair reported on the activities related to the COSEWIC meeting held in Whitehorse the previous week. The sessions began with the Chair, Secretariat and Herbert Felix attending a one day meeting of representatives from a number of other land claim based wildlife management boards (WMBs), including the FJMC and WMAC(NWT). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the role of the boards in the COSEWIC process as well as other Species at Risk related processes.

This was followed by a two-day meeting between the WMBs and all the members of COSEWIC. This was an opportunity for the WMBs to make a series of presentations to COSEWIC on the roles and mandates of each board. Discussions were held on how best to coordinate activities in the COSEWIC process, including the review of draft reports, WMBs' input into the terms of reference and selection of a contractor, and WMB participation in meetings where species are being considered for listing so that the boards can present their opinions. There was also a working session to review the COSEWIC Operations Manual to establish a proposed relationship between COSEWIC and the WMBs.

COSEWIC will be meeting again in November. The plan is for the WMBs to meet with COSEWIC members at that time and to review the Operations Manual. It will also be an opportunity for the WMBs to meet with the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Sub-Committee.

The Chair added that it would be good for the WMBs to develop a relationship with about three quarters of the Species Specialist Committees. The Chairs of the Species Specialist Committees are open to this.

A discussion was held about the relationship between the WMBs and the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Sub-Committee. Members agreed that the WMBs would be better served by dealing directly with the COSEWIC board. It is important to establish that all the WMBs are in agreement with this. The Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Sub-Committee was established primarily to represent southern aboriginal groups.

The Chair commented that the next step is to make sure that the WMACs and the FJMC have a common approach regarding a relationship with COSEWIC and the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Sub-Committee, as well as in other matters that should be raised at the COSEWIC meeting in November. An agreement on the same common approach should also be discussed with the other WMBs.

The Chair confirmed that the federal Species at Risk legislation is now in place. Doug Larsen added that the YTG legislation should be introduced to the legislature in the fall.

8. Herschel Island Management Plan

The Chair distributed copies of the revised Herschel Island Management Plan as prepared by Hillarie Zimmermann. He commented that Council members need to review the material and consider the basic format and structure. The Chair added that although the format is now better, there is still work to do on the content. Once Hillarie knows that the Council supports the work she has done, she will give it to Dave Ladret to complete the next step.

Action 03-05-10: Council members will review the draft Herschel Island Management Plan, as revised by Hillarie Zimmermann, and forward any comments to the Secretariat by May 16.

G. Financial (continued)

b) WMAC(NS) Budget for 2003-2004

Members reviewed a proposed budget that was prepared by the Secretariat. The contribution from YTG for the year is \$158,500. There is a carry-over from the previous year of \$9,588, for a total in the budget of \$168,088. Most of the funds carried-over had been allocated in the previous year to the library project. The Secretariat reported that the \$7600 outstanding for this project has not yet been paid as the contract has still not been completed satisfactorily. If and when

the unresolved issues are settled with the contractor, the Council will need to pay the balance owing out of this year's budget.

The Secretariat explained that the figures in the proposed budget represent the amounts that the Council has usually started with each year in each category. One exception is the category for the Term Report. As the production of this report only occurs every two years the amount allocated to it varies from one year to the next.

Members requested that the amount allocated to 'regular meetings –travel' be reduced from \$10,000 to \$6,000. The difference should be allocated to 'Projects Funded by WMAC'.

In reference to the funds allocated to projects, the Secretariat noted the addition of a new category named 'Wildlife Plans'. This was done in order to distinguish funds used in the implementation of wildlife plans from those used in other projects. The submission for IFA funding made this distinction too. Previous budgets included work done related to wildlife plans as a line item under 'Projects Funded by WMAC'. The development of plans can still be funded under projects. Members agreed to the allocation of \$15,000 to the category of 'Wildlife Plans'.

Members discussed the allocation of the remaining funds amongst projects. It was agreed that, for the first time, separate funding should be allocated to work done related to 'Species at Risk'. Funding allocations for projects were agreed to, as follows:

Bylaws regulations and legislation	2,000.00
Library	7,600.00
Herschel Island Management Plan	2,500.00
Ecosystem monitoring/ ABEKS	3,000.00
Muskox communications	1,200.00
TK assessment	5,000.00
Muskox plan	5,000.00
Species at Risk	5,000.00
North Slope Conference	2,000.00
Total	33,300.00

The Council's budget will show a deficit of about \$1200, but members agreed to reallocated funds later in the year, as required.

Motion

to adopt the Council's 2003-2004 budget, as amended.

Moved: Herbert Felix

Second: Doug Larsen

Motion carried

I. Members' Report

The following reports were given my members:

Doug Larsen

- The Porcupine Caribou Management Board met the previous week. The meeting included ongoing discussions about the Dempster Highway regulations. There will be no changes in the regulations for now. The Board also had a visioning workshop. There were discussions about how to go about making the necessary revisions to the PCH Agreement and Harvest Plan.
- The PCMB also had discussions with the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board about overlapping issues and mandates and how to separate responsibilities. Decisions made by the PCMB could have an effect on WMAC(NS). The Chair commented that the Council would want to be able to comment on any issue that affects Inuvialuit before a recommendation is made by the PCMB.
- In reference to the issue of sheep management and hunting in the Richard Mountains, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board has deferred this issue to another joint planning group. There was recently a meeting in Old Crow. The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation now want to take the lead and deal directly with the Gwich'in interests.

Dorothy Cooley

- A census of the Porcupine caribou herd is planned for this year.
- Michelle Oakley and Phil Merchant are working on a protocol for the submission of dead birds for the testing of West Nile virus.

H. Old Business (continued)

10. Wildlife Management and Research- Updates

Dorothy Cooley reported on the following projects:

a) Muskox survey- As already reported the population count was much lower in the April survey. Only 6 calves were counted but this number of young, as a proportion of the population, is at a good level.

b) Aklavik Hunter Education- Ian McLeod and the Aklavik RRC got some funding from the Gordon Foundation. This funding will be put toward holding a camp in the spring.

c) Joint Muskox Survey- A survey was proposed for the Richardson Mountains. Dorothy reported that she has talked to John Nagy about some of the technical details. YTG will do the work because John is too busy right now with other work.

Doug Larsen added that the experiments conducted last year at the University of Saskatchewan showed that there are no problems with parasite transmission from muskox to sheep. Concerns about genetic mixing still exist. It is a problem that needs to be pursued.

11. Grizzly Bear Management

Members reviewed the draft resolution prepared jointly by WMAC(NS) and WMAC(NWT). The Chair proposed that WMAC(NS) prepare a resolution on its own. The WMAC(NWT) can then pass its own resolution when they are ready. The WMAC(NS) resolution will recommend an annual harvest quota of 13 bears per year. This is an increase of two from previous years.

Members agreed to the following changes and additions to the draft resolution in the binder:

- Add 'per year' after every reference to a harvest of 11 bears.
- Add 'due to administration of tags' after 'WHEREAS the harvest quota of 11 bears has been under-utilized'
- Add the geographic allocation of the 2 tags as per the AHTC's motion, where appropriate.
- Add 'whereas the Council has consulted with the WMAC(NWT)', where appropriate.
- Additional changes that reflect that the resolution is no longer a joint resolution.

Motion

to move the grizzly bear resolution, with amendments, as discussed.

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried

J. Next Meeting

Council members agreed to try to have a meeting on the North Slope sometime in July or August. The Babbage River was suggested as a good location. Two days are required for a meeting plus two travel days. The Secretariat agreed to try to find a date that all members are available for a meeting.

K. Adjournment

Motion

To adjourn.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Herbert Felix

Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date