



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

P.O. Box 5928, Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 5L6
Tel/Fax: 633-5476

**Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of
January 16-17, 1992**

Aklavik, NWT

In Attendance

Council Members: Lindsay Staples
Donald Aviugana
Frank Elanik
Brian Pelchat
Bill Smith

Others: Barbara Allen, AHTC (Jan 16,17)
Renie Arey, AHTC (Jan 16)
Tom Arey, AHTC (Jan 16)
Dianne Gordon (Jan 17)
James Selamio (Jan 16)
David Storr, AHTC (Jan 16)
Julie Thrasher, AHTC (Jan 16)

1. Approval of Agenda

Two agenda items were given more specificity:

- #17. Overview of Activities in the Northern Yukon National Park
- #18. ANWR Update; WMAC(NS) financial contribution to the ANWR education initiative.

Motioned: Frank Elanik
Seconded: Bill Smith

2. Review of October 25, 1991 Minutes

The minutes of the Council's Quarterly Meeting of October 25, 1991 were adopted as submitted.

Motioned: Donald Aviugana
Seconded: Bill Smith

3. Revision of Action Items

Wildlife Research:

ACTION: Once the staff from the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources have completed their operational plan for wildlife research they will meet with the members of the Aklavik Hunters & Trappers Committee for a presentation. This is expected to take place this Spring.

ACTION: The Yukon government will resume its regular practice of providing updates on the status of its wildlife research to the Council.

Bowhead Hunt:

ACTION: Donald Aviugana will investigate the possibility of having the FJMC and the WMAC(NS) share support for wider distribution and translation of the video for educational purposes.

Workplan:

ACTION: For the next meeting, the Secretariat will prepare a workplan for the 1992-1993 fiscal year.

4. Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

Work on the Conservation and Management Plan progressed significantly over the last month, putting the project on target for completion (submission to the appropriate ministers) for May, 1992.

Comments received from various government bodies, agencies, Inuvialuit organizations, and individuals on the Plan's first draft were helpful. As well, the 1991 Annual North Slope Conference provided the Council with valuable suggestions as to the contents of the Plan and highlighted the importance of adding an international dimension to it. The Council is grateful to the Department of Renewable Resources of the Yukon government for compiling

the draft proceedings of the North Slope Conference and making them available to the Council in a timely manner.

One important goal of the Plan is to take the basic principles and measures of Section 12 of the IFA and give them practical effect in respect to how they can achieve conservation in the North Slope.

This important goal of the Plan, along with the comments received on its first draft, served as a basis for discussion at a January planning meeting of the plan's working group.

The submitted responses raised some points of contention or confusion which needed to be addressed. Consequently, the working group produced a set of questions to be forwarded to a variety of interested government bodies, agencies, Inuvialuit organizations, and individuals in the hope of clarifying concerns and interests.

Responses to the questionnaire will assist the Council in determining the direction it should take through the Plan's decisive stage of development.

ACTION: Council members will inform the Secretariat of any changes they would like to see made to the Conservation and Management Plan questions.

ACTION: The Secretariat will mail the questions and covering letter within the next few days. The deadline for responses will be February 21, 1992.

ACTION: The Secretariat will express its appreciation to the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources for providing it with the proceedings from the North Slope Conference.

ACTION: The Chair will make arrangements to meet with the Aklavik Hunters & Trappers Committee in March 1992 to ensure involvement from the Aklavik community in the development of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

5. Porcupine Caribou Video Tapes

The PCMB provided the WMAC(NS) with sets of video tapes on the Porcupine Caribou. These sets, made up of four tapes each, were designed for education in schools and will be distributed to the six Inuvialuit communities in the Settlement Region.

One set was given to the Aklavik Hunters & Trappers Committee at the meeting. Their President, Renie Arey, expressed the desire to see the videos produced in the Delta dialect of the Inuvialuit people.

ACTION: The Secretariat will follow up with the Aklavik Hunters & Trappers Committee on the status of their efforts in producing the PCMB videos into the Delta dialect of the Inuvialuit.

6. Communications

Communication of North Slope activities and management concepts to the Inuvialuit communities is very important both for the Inuvialuit and for all groups and organizations involved in the North Slope. Of further importance is the need to reach the young people whose ability to protect their area in the future depends in part on their understanding of the issues and various options available to them.

The Northern Yukon National Park would like to further public understanding of protected areas and expressed the desire to produce a small slide show or video with the participation of Inuvialuit communities. As well, Herschel Island Park and the area east of the Babbage could be included so that the North Slope as a whole can be communicated as a special region of the world, requiring special protection.

ACTION: Bill Smith and Lindsay Staples will discuss the feasibility of producing a slide show on the Northern Yukon National Park with the possibility of incorporating Herschel Island Park and the area east of the Babbage.

ACTION: Brian Pelchat will ask Jim McIntyre of Parks and Outdoor Recreation at YTG to communicate with Bill Smith on this matter.

ACTION: The Secretariat will investigate the possibility of pooling resources from different agencies and funding from private foundations to further public understanding of North Slope conservation requirements.

7. Council Members and Alternates

Alternates need to be informed of all Council business matters on an ongoing basis so they can effectively replace the regular members when called upon.

Soon after each meeting and preferably upon receipt of the minutes of the meetings, it is the responsibility of the members in attendance to share the information with their designated colleague.

ACTION: The Secretariat will ensure that the regular members of the Council and their alternates receive all pertinent materials.

ACTION: The Secretariat will ask the Inuvialuit Game Council to nominate an alternate for Frank Elanik on the WMAC(NS).

8. Grizzly Bear Management

The GNWT, in a joint effort with the YTG, is planning a three-year grizzly bear research program that includes in scope the Aklavik region. The Aklavik Hunters & Trappers Committee needs to be informed of the details of the program. In particular, it needs answers to questions such as what specific pieces of information will be collected, why the data is required, how it will be used to manage grizzly bears and, more importantly, how the people of Aklavik will be involved in the program.

The WMAC(NWT) recently informed the WMAC(NS) that it would go ahead with the establishment of quotas for Grizzly bears. Some of the harvest, although reported in the NWT, apply to bears hunted in the Yukon. A cooperative management approach that would equally apply to both territorial governments in the Settlement Region is desired.

ACTION: The Secretariat will convey to the GNWT the importance of communicating its grizzly bear research program to the Hunters & Trappers Committee and the people of Aklavik.

ACTION: The WMAC(NS), WMAC(NWT), CPS and YTG will meet for further discussion of the research question regarding grizzlies in the Richardson Mountains and the management issue.

9. Legislative Overhaul

Despite the superseding legislative powers of the IFA, both the GNWT and the YTG may wish to settle their respective land claims before they amend their existing pieces of legislation to reflect the IFA's jurisdiction. This could further delay legislative reform pursuant to the IFA.

ACTION: The Chair will meet with the Premier of the Yukon government and the Minister of Renewable Resources on the question of legislative overhaul.

He will then report back to the Council members and to the Aklavik Hunters & Trappers Committee.

10. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The Gwich'in Steering Committee has approached one of the Council members to cover some or all of the travelling costs related to conducting a "road show" on ANWR in Aklavik, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk.

The Council's current budget needs further analysis before the members can make a sound decision on this issue.

ACTION: The question of funding part or all of the Gwich'in Steering Committee's travelling costs for their "road show" on ANWR in communities of the Settlement Region will be the subject of a conference call scheduled for next week.

11. Northern Yukon National Park

The Aklavik Elders Committee submitted five names for the Northern Yukon National Park. Of the five submissions, two (Nunaluk and Ivavik) were administratively acceptable to Canadian Parks Service. The Council members acknowledged the excellent work done by Bill Smith, the Aklavik Elders Committee, and Barbara Allen in preparing for this historic event.

The voting on the selection of the new name for the Northern Yukon National Park was carried out by the two Inuvialuit members of the Council and Brian Pelchat of the Yukon government. Because of his position as Chief Warden of the Park, Bill Smith withdrew from the selection process.

Unanimously, the name "IVAVIK" was chosen as the new official name for the Northern Yukon National Park. "IVAVIK" means "a place for birth and raising

of the young (nursery)", and as stated by one of the members, it strengthens the idea of conservation and protection of wildlife in the area.

The acceptance of the name is subject to further discussion as to the proper spelling and pronunciation of the word "IVAVIK".

Motioned: Frank Elanik
Seconded: Donald Aviugana
Abstained: Bill Smith

ACTION: The Secretariat will send a letter to W. Douglas Harper in Winnipeg to inform him of the decision.

ACTION: Bill Smith, Barbara Allen and the winner of the contest will discuss the spelling and pronunciation of "IVAVIK".

ACTION: The Council will transmit a letter to the Minister of the Environment conveying the symbolic importance of the event to the local people.

The Secretariat will draft a letter in consultation with Bill Smith for the Chair's signature.

ACTION: Bill Smith will look into the procedure for the design and adoption of a logo for the Park.

12. Northern Yukon National Park Management Plan

A draft of the Northern Yukon National Park Management Plan is expected to be available for comment this Spring. A final recommendation is anticipated for the Fall of 1992.

ACTION: The Secretariat will confirm the planned schedule for revision and completion of the Northern Yukon National Park Management Plan.

13. Annual Report

The Council's 1990-1991 Annual Report, complete with the financial statements, was tabled for adoption.

Motioned: Bill Smith
Seconded: Donald Aviugana

14. Herschel Island Park

Question was raised as to the official name of the park. It remained unclear whether it is "Herschel Island" or "Qikiqtaruk".

ACTION: Brian Pelchat will verify the official name of the territorial park on Herschel Island.

15. Financial Reports

In order to prepare complete budget analyses, the Council requires monthly budget reports from the Joint Secretariat, the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Yukon government.

ACTION: Brian Pelchat will check with the Yukon government's administration to see if a budget report (which is produced internally every month) can be automatically sent to the WMAC(NS).

ACTION: The Secretariat will raise the question with Don Russell.

ACTION: The procedures will come in effect April 1, 1992, with the start of the new fiscal year.

ACTION: The Secretariat will follow up with Dave Murray in Winnipeg for a report on the park management training program for James Selamio.

"Other Contract Work"

The Chair requested that the amount of \$ 27,859.34 budgeted for "other contract work" (less a possible contribution to the Gwich'in Steering Committee) be transferred to the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan account.

ACTION: The matter is postponed until the Chair and the Secretariat have prepared a breakdown of the anticipated costs associated with the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. The matter will be discussed by conference call.

Bear Awareness:

Given that the work intended for the Bear Awareness could not proceed as planned because of critical impending research, it was unanimously agreed that the \$6,000 committed last year for this project be transferred to the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan project.

Motioned: Frank Elanik

Seconded: Bill Smith

16. Training and Employment / Opportunities for Youth

With regards to educational, training and employment opportunities for Inuvialuit youth, grade 11 or 12 students could become volunteers for one or two weeks at Herschel Island to familiarize themselves with the nature of a park ranger's work. As well, the Northern Yukon National Park plans to participate in the Career Day in Aklavik when determined. Other possibilities for furthering the interest of young Inuvialuit people in the activities and management of the park should be considered.

ACTION: The Secretariat will confirm with Dianne Gordon when the Career Day will be held this year.

ACTION: The Secretariat will write a letter to Jim Mockett, the Aklavik school Principal, to inform him of the potential participants who could contribute in a Career Day.

ACTION: Brian Pelchat and Frank Elanik will explore practical opportunities for a career day on Herschel Island and inform Dianne Gordon of their findings.

17. Herschel Island Caisson

The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs recently sent letters to Gulf Canada Resources Limited and Canadian Marine Drilling Limited informing them that their leases for the caissons cannot be renewed until they have completed the Environmental Impact Screening and Review process.

ACTION: The Secretariat will call Mr. Palmer in Calgary for a progress report on the sale of the caisson to Korean interests.

ACTION: The Secretariat will follow up on the Council's letter to Joe Ganske.

18. EIRB Operating Procedures

The No.2 draft of the EIRB's Operating Procedures were circulated for comments. The WMAC(NS) sees this opportunity as a chance to assist the Board in defining how the processes should operate and how they could be improved.

ACTION: Responses from the Council members are expected by January 31, 1992.

ACTION: The Chair will contract the services of Bob Gibson to assist the Council in drafting its response to the EIRB.

19. Tourism Guidelines

A meeting between Dave Mossop, Senior Small Game Biologist with the Yukon Government, Martyn Williams of Ecosummer Yukon Expeditions, and Frank Elanik of the Council took place in Whitehorse last December 19. The purpose of the meeting was to develop tourism guidelines for the Yukon North Slope. A report by Martyn Williams was made available to the members on January 16.

ACTION: The Council members will review Martyn Williams' document on Tourism Guidelines for the Yukon North Slope in time for next week's conference call.

20. Inuvialuit Harvest Study

Members expressed their support for the goals of the study and indicated their support for a review of its methodology and operation.

ACTION: The Chair will write to Norm Snow and raise the question of cost/benefit and reliability as they relate to harvest data collection methodology and programming.

The letter will be distributed among the Council members before mailing.

ACTION: Donald Aviugana will look into the process of field collecting data and report back to the Council.

21. Newsletter

The next Council Newsletter, the *Wildlife Watch*, will be devoted to either the ANWR issue or the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

ACTION: The Secretariat will put together the existing documentation on ANWR and decide whether there is enough concise information available. If not, the next issue of *Wildlife Watch* will be devoted to ANWR. If so, the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan will be the topic covered.

22. Other Business

Hugh Monaghan has accepted a one year special assignment to negotiate the devolution of the forestry sector to the Yukon Government. Brian Pelchat will replace Hugh as a regular member of the Council, carrying all responsibilities associated with the appointment.

ACTION: The Secretariat will respond to Hugh Monaghan's letter to the Council.

23. Next Meeting

Now that two of WMAC's regular members are also regular members of the PCMB, it is necessary to ensure that there are no meeting conflicts.

ACTION: The Secretariat will check the meeting schedules of both the PCMB and the IGC, and will then establish its own schedule for the next four meetings.