



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, NWT

December 9 -10, 2002

Monday December 9, 2002

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Dorothy Cooley - Alternate- Yukon Government
Alan Fehr- Alternate- Government of Canada- Parks Canada
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:45 am.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and outlined some of the issues to be covered during the meeting. The agenda for the meeting with the Aklavik HTC was also reviewed.

Motion

To adopt the agenda

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Herbert Felix

Motion carried

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

Members reviewed the minutes of the October 2002 meeting. The following changes were requested:

page 4- under Action 02-07-23, change 200 to read 2000.

page 5- under Action 02-10-03, change 'latter' to 'later'.

page 11- change 'serge' to 'surge' and 'sin' to 'signs'. Also in the last paragraph, remove 'sod house' from first sentence.

page 19- under item 14- change 'treat' to 'threat'.

Motion

To adopt the minutes of the October 2002 meeting, with noted changes.

Moved: Herbert Felix

Second: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried

D. Review of Action Items

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

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 noted that this item will be covered later in the meeting.

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.

Retired. The Council did make a presentation to the committee but it was not necessary to contract Bob Gibson.

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.

Complete. The Chair reported that the letter has been drafted and that he is hoping to get both Larry Carpenter and Bob Bell to sign it as well.

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.

Ongoing. The Council will ask Bob Lewis to provide a summary report of activities from Vuntut National Park.

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.

Outstanding. The Secretariat received some comments from members. Doug noted that a new draft of the report is now available and should be reviewed to see if the comments supplied by members still apply.

E. Correspondence

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

- Two letters sent jointly from EISC, WMAC(NS) and EIRB to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources regarding Bill C-2. The Chair explained the concerns that have been repeatedly raised regarding the introduction of a second screening process for the North Slope. Currently all environmental screening is carried out by the EISC. Once provisions under Bill C-2 are established there will be two processes- the Inuvialuit process and the new Yukon-wide process. There is a potential for the two processes to generate different results. This problem was identified 6 years ago. The Chair added that he did a presentation on this issue to the Standing Committee the previous week but it had no effect. The Bill will go through without this issue being resolved. It is disappointing that no real effort was made on the part of the Standing Committee to address these concerns. Alan Fehr commented that Parks Canada Western Field Unit also wrote to DIAND to express their opposition to Bill C-2 for the same reasons.
- A letter from Larry Carpenter to Joe Tetlich, Chair, PCMB, requesting more information about the international management of the Porcupine caribou herd and restrictions on hunters in Alaska.
- A letter from the Chair to Alan Fehr regarding the issue of motorized access to Ivavik National Park. This issue will be addressed over the next 2-3 years so that any changes can be included in the next revisions to the plan.
- E-mail regarding the upcoming oil and gas regulatory gathering in Fairbanks in March. The Chair explained that this meeting is being organized by DFO and the FJMC. It is a good opportunity to learn about regulation issues.
- E-mail from Dave Ladret providing an update on activities related to Herschel Island. Members decided to review this correspondence later in the meeting.

G. Report from the Chair

The Chair reported that he has been very busy dealing with all the various management plans currently being developed or reviewed. He also noted that he will soon be taking part in the discussions regarding the next five years of IFA funding.

H. Members' Report

Danny C. Gordon reported that he recently attended a workshop in Inuvik, organized by the GNWT, to identify research gaps. He found the workshop to be very informative.

Alan Fehr presented the Council with a copy of the newly released "Western Arctic Handbook". Alan added that Parks Canada wants to enhance its communication and educational role in the communities by getting more products out to the public. There is a need for more products that are suitable for general use.

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

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

The following items were reviewed and discussed:

- **WMAC(NS)'s traditional knowledge assessment project-** The Chair reported that the Council's Wildlife Population Status Reports are currently based primarily on scientific research. There is a need to include traditional knowledge in the reports. This project will focus on some key wildlife species and will be conducted in February by Barney Smith who works for YTG. Evelyn commented on the importance of including traditional knowledge in the information that is available about wildlife and birds on the North Slope and added that the HTC will help to support Barney in his work.
- **Yukon North Slope Wildlife and Conservation Management Plan-** The second volume of the Plan has been approved by the Council and will soon be recommended to the appropriate government Ministers.
- **Herschel Island Management Plan** – The Council has been working with Yukon Parks Branch on finalizing this Plan. Council members attended a one-day workshop in November in Whitehorse to further revise and update the Plan. It is important that the Plan recognizes Herschel's role as a communication and rescue center for those traveling along the coast.

Representatives from the Parks Branch will be returning to Aklavik soon to talk about the latest version of the Plan.

- **Muskox Management Plan** – The Chair reported that the Plan covers the entire range of the North Slope muskox, in Canada. Many groups were consulted and contributed to the development of the Plan. The final draft of this Plan has been sent out for review. The Council hopes to be able to recommend the Plan to government within the next three months. Once the Plan has been recommended, it will be possible to set a quota.
- **Grizzly Bear Management-** The Chair reported that the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan is under review. There was a workshop in Inuvik in October that covered many issues. On the previous day, members of WMAC(NS) met with WMAC(NWT) and John Nagy in Inuvik to review the GNWT's grizzly bear population estimates. Further population assessments need to be done but it appears that it will be possible to increase the quota for Aklavik within the next few months. Information from the GNWT's traditional knowledge study has been compiled and put onto maps.

Evelyn asked for clarification of WMAC(NS)'s role and the HTC's authority with respect to research and grizzly bear management.

Action 02-12-01: WMAC(NS) will send the Aklavik HTC a copy of the report from the IFA Roles and Responsibilities Workshop and the document on the identification and review process for IFA-funded Yukon North Slope wildlife management and research programs.

Action 02-12-02: WMAC(NS) will prepare a fact sheet on agency responsibilities related to grizzly bear management to send to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.

- **Upcoming research on the North Slope-** The Chair commented that a lot of funding will be going toward muskox research over the next three years. An assessment of the grizzly bear population is also a priority. The HTC was encouraged to provide the Council with an updated list of their research priorities.

When asked by the HTC for clarification on where research funding comes from, the Chair explained that the different government agencies (YTG, GNWT, DFO, CWS, Parks Canada) all receive IFA implementation funds from DIAND. The amount of funding is determined in 5 years blocks. The Council makes recommendations on which wildlife programs the funds should be spent.

The HTC agreed that a grizzly bear population study for the area is a priority. Before any decisions are made on a future long-term quota, there is a need to

get more accurate information on population. It is important to deal with Grizzly population issues. Evelyn added that once the traditional knowledge work is done, there may be new areas identified that need research.

- **Community meetings with the IGC.** Evelyn commented that she would like to see the IGC hold more meetings in the communities. The IGC needs to get feedback from the communities especially on some of the bigger, more important issues. And it is important for the communities to know more about the IGC's activities. The Chair agreed to raise the issue of community meetings and community input at the IGC meeting later in the week. He suggested that the HTC write to the IGC to express their ideas for improving communication between the IGC and the communities.
- **Parks Canada-** Alan Fehr gave an update on Parks Canada activities in the Western Arctic. He began by noting that he is now the Superintendent for the region. Parks Canada is trying to put more work into communications and education. There is a need to develop more products that the communities can use, not just technical reports. Parks wants to get more involved in the schools and do more to make information on the research being done accessible. An Environmental Stewardship Program has been started.

Parks Canada would like to make some changes to the MOU on Firth River rafting. Parks feels that there are not enough economic opportunities associated with river use and would like to see opportunities to expand cultural interpretation. Parks Canada would like to develop an 'interpretive course' so that people can learn about how to work with tourists. In reference to Clarence Lagoon, Parks Canada has plans to come over to Aklavik to talk about what the community wants to see done in the area. Questions have been raised about what to do with the river monitoring shack at Trout Lake. This also needs to be discussed with the community. Parks is trying to find out more about the Stokes land fill site. Their goal is to get the site cleaned up. Some sampling was done at the site in the summer of 2001 and Parks is now waiting for the results of the tests that were done.

Alan gave the HTC copies of two books that have just been published – "The Western Arctic Handbook" and "The Natural History of the Western Arctic".

I. Old Business

1. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Chair reported that Volume 2 of the Plan is currently in production. There will be both a print and CD version. It will also be available on the Council's website. Members agreed that the North Slope Conference will be a good venue to review the Plan and discuss its implementation.

2. Grizzly Bear Management

The Chair summarized the discussions held the previous day with members of the WMAC(NWT) and John Nagy on grizzly bear management the ISR. The Council needs to be considering an interim quota until the new population assessments are completed. It may be possible to increase the quota west of the delta by two bears. John needs to do a bit more work before the Council can make a recommendation. The Council needs to be following up John at the end of January.

3. Muskox Management

a) Canadian North Slope Muskox Management Plan

Council members reviewed the latest draft of the Plan that had just gone out for review. Suggestions were made about additions and changes to some of the information given on the maps.

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.

The Chair commented that it should be possible to recommend the Plan and a quota by March. WMAC(NS) will recommend the Plan to Parks Canada and the Yukon Government. WMAC(NWT) will recommend to the NWT Government. The Secretariat will be following with all the agencies that have received the draft to find out if they support the Plan. Only agencies that are in support of the Plan will be included in the list on the cover of the document.

Action 02-12-04: The Secretariat will send copies of the draft Muskox Plan to the First Nation in Dawson and Mayo as well as to the PCMB.

b) Muskox communications

The Secretariat reported that the muskox fact sheets have been completed. Copies are included in the meeting binders. The fact sheets will be distributed to various communities and agencies in the region.

Kirsten Madsen has been working on the Muskox school unit and has some questions about how to introduce what she has done to the schools. Alan Fehr suggested that she work through the Beaufort Education Council. It may be possible to do an in-service. Alan agreed to find out the best time of the year to do this. Members raised question about the use of the British Columbia

curriculum standards instead of the Alberta ones. The Secretariat will ask Kirsten to incorporate the Alberta standards as they are the ones used in the NWT.

4. Herschel Island Territorial Park

a) Management Plan

The Chair reported that a one-day workshop that focused on the Herschel Island Management Plan was held in Whitehorse in November. It was attended by Hillarie Zimmermann, Darielle Talarico, Walter Brennan and Dave Ladret, in addition to WMAC(NS) members Doug Larsen, Danny C. Gordon, Dorothy Cooley, the Chair and Secretariat. The group was brought together to discuss revisions to the current draft of the Plan. Participants drafted a vision statement and made revisions to the goals and objectives. There is a need to meet again to take the Plan to the next stage.

b) 2003 Workplan

The Chair referred to the correspondence in the meeting binder from Dave Ladret providing an update on activities related to Herschel Island. Among the activities listed is the preparation of a digital map of the island. Members noted that Parks Canada has already prepared a map. The Secretariat agreed to pass this information on to Dave.

5. Species at Risk

Alan Fehr reported that the federal Species at Risk bill is back in the Senate and is working its way through that house. Doug Larsen added that the Territorial Species at Risk legislation will need to be reviewed by the new government before the legislation is introduced. It is currently 'stand alone' legislation.

6. Parks Canada Report

Alan Fehr provided a further update on activities of Parks Canada in the Western Arctic. Cathy Cockney is taking leave without pay. Parks is having discussions with the IRC about how to replace her. In reference to their monitoring program Parks has a basic program that they want to keep running and report on every year. They are expanding their monitoring into the marine environment. For example a number of storm surge probes have been set out. DFO will supply the analysis if Parks Canada does the monitoring. Parks Canada would like to put more effort into cultural resources. They have a lot of assets but not enough money to maintain them.

Parks must prepare a new business plan for the next five years to show how funds will be allocated over this time. The Western Arctic Field Unit is looking at priorities and deciding where funding resources should go. A work plan is being developed that will go along with business plan. This is being done in parallel to IFA implementation funding discussions and planning. There is a need to keep the business plan in mind during these funding discussions.

Danny C. Gordon asked who is responsible for the travelers' cabin at Komakuk. Alan reported that Parks Canada had an agreement with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee to move the cabin but it hasn't been moved. Parks Canada doesn't want the cabin and has to work with the HTC to figure out what to do with it. Danny said that he will raise this issue with the HTC.

7. Yukon Wildlife Act Regulations

The Chair reported that YTG is hosting a meeting in Whitehorse on January 14 to consider regulations related to trapping. Danny C. Gordon has agreed to attend along with the Chair.

K. Upcoming Meetings

Members reviewed the dates of several upcoming meetings:

- EMAN North - Iqaluit in January.
- Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op Annual Gathering- in Whitehorse, in March. Danny offered to attend this on behalf of the Council.
- Furbearer Conference- in Whitehorse in May. Danny expressed an interest in attending this. A final decision on his participation will be made closer to the date.
- Oil and Gas Environmental Regulators meeting, Fairbanks, March 19-20. The Chair commented that he is hoping to attend. Herbert also agreed to attend on behalf of the Council.
- COSEWIC is holding a board meeting in Whitehorse at the end of April. The possibility of holding an additional meeting at the same with all the Wildlife Management Boards has been raised.

Dorothy Cooley also raised the possibility of having another meeting with Alaskans to discuss muskox management. There has been a dramatic decline in the numbers of muskox in ANWR. It would be good to have an opportunity to discuss several issues with the Alaskans before the Council forwards the final version of the Muskox Plan.

Tuesday December 10, 2002

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
Alan Fehr- Alternate- Government of Canada- Parks Canada
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

Guests: Joan Eamer- Canadian Wildlife Service, Whitehorse
Gina Elliott- Integrated Management Planner, DFO, Inuvik

F. Financial Report

Members reviewed the financial statements in the meeting binder. The Secretariat had prepared statements showing the percentage of funds spent in each category to date. The Council's projected expenses are slightly over budget but there are several items that may not need as much funding as projected.

The Grizzly Bear Workshop is showing a large deficit because the Council had decided not to allocate any funds to it until the workshop was over. The cost for the Council's participation in the workshop has totaled \$6,867. Members agreed to allocate this amount to the workshop category.

In reference to the work that has been completed on the Council's library, the Secretariat reported the following. Myrna Button, who is the librarian at the Joint Secretariat, was hired to catalogue the Council's library in Whitehorse. In addition, the WMAC(NS) library was to be added to the larger Inuvialuit library database. Myrna was unable to give the Council an estimate of the project's cost until she'd had an opportunity to assess the size of the library.

At the meeting that took place on Herschel Island, Council members agreed to allocate \$5000 toward the library project. If the project required more funds, the Secretariat was instructed to get an estimate from Myrna and present it to the members at the next meeting. Myrna was informed of these conditions before she began the work. It was made very clear that there was only \$5000 available for the project and that any further funds would have to be approved by the Council before any additional work was undertaken.

Myrna and her husband came to Whitehorse and spent a week doing the work. On her return to Inuvik she submitted invoices for \$2820.29 for expenses and \$5280.15 for fees. Myrna was then told by the Secretariat to stop all work on the project until the Council could be notified of the large cost over run. However several weeks later, the Secretariat received a further invoice for \$4494 and a note to say that the work had been completed. Myrna was asked by the Secretariat to supply a more detailed invoice of the work she had completed and an explanation of why she continued to work on the project after she had been asked to stop. No satisfactory explanation had been received to date.

A discussion was held about how to proceed and whether Myrna should be paid for any expenses over the allocated \$5000. The Council agreed to request a more detailed accounting from Myrna before making a decision about paying her the balance of her invoice. It was suggested that the Secretariat contact Brenda Madsen who does a lot of work on YTG libraries to get an assessment of the work performed by Myrna. This will help the Council decide if Myrna's invoice is reasonable. It must be made clear to Myrna that the Council is not making any commitment to pay her the full amount she has invoiced. The Council will consider the question once all the information is available. No further funds are to be allocated to this project at this time. If any further funds are required for this project, they may not be available until the next fiscal year.

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.

A discussion was held about funding required for a further workshop related to the Herschel Island Management Plan. Doug Larsen agreed to ask YTG Parks Branch if they have any funds to contribute to another workshop.

Members noted that some funds may also be needed if a meeting is held with the Alaskan in relation to the Muskox Management Plan.

Motion

*To accept the December 1, 2002 financial statement, as presented.
The Secretariat is to reallocate budget amounts as needed.*

Moved: Alan Fehr
Second: Herbert Felix
Motion carried

I. Old Business (continued)

8. IFA Implementation Funding 2004-2009

Members reviewed a table showing a summary of the Council's expenditures from 1996 to 2002. Some categories, such as 'meetings- regular', have had larger budgets than needed over the years. The level for Secretariat fees has limited that amount of work that the Secretariat can do in a year and needs to be higher. Funds spent on projects have ranged from \$20,000 to \$40,000 per year. The Chair noted that funds spent on projects are advancing the objectives of the IFA. Another table showing a summary of expenditures based on the core funding received from YTG was also reviewed.

The Council is preparing a submission for the federal government to outline funding requirements for 2004-2009. This submission will include a rationale for anticipated expenses. There is a need for an increase in funding to run the office, including Secretariat fees. The Council needs funds for projects. Funds are also now needed to implement the Yukon North Slope Wildlife and Conservation Management Plan. Funding for the North Slope Conference needs to be protected in non-conference years.

Action 02-12-06: The Secretariat will distribute a copy of the Council's IFA Implementation Funding submission to all members.

9. Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op

Joan Eamer, Canadian Wildlife Service, gave members an update on the activities of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op. This year the Annual Gathering will be held in March in Whitehorse. Hillarie Zimmermann has been hired to coordinate the Community Monitoring project. The training for the monitors will take place in January. The Coop now has federal charitable status and can apply for foundation funding. A Communications Strategy was prepared last year and the Coop is following-up on several ideas to improve communications.

Joan gave a demonstration of the Access database that she has developed to analyze the information from the Community Monitoring Program. Joan also displayed a number of posters that she has prepared highlighting some of the findings from this program over the years.

Joan commented that there are many different target groups for the information brought together by the Coop and that it needs to be presented in a way that is useful. Different groups have different needs. Joan asked Council members to consider how the information could be useful to them.

Members commented that the information has to be relevant to the day-to-day management side. The program cannot just be maintained as a monitoring initiative alone. It is important to consider the kinds of management questions that need to be answered when thinking about how the information should be compiled and analyzed. The Coop is making it possible to compile a body of information about and by those who are spending time on the land. This information is not being recorded in other research. The knowledge component is the bringing together and integrating the traditional and scientific knowledge. Otherwise it is just information. Information on availability can be used to link with harvest data to provide information as to why things are happening as they are.

Alan Fehr commented on the importance of getting the information back to the communities in a format that they can use. Peoples' willingness to participate is key to maintaining the project so the Coop must get the information back to them.

Council members agreed that it is important to establish what the Council needs from the Coop and what the Coop needs from the Council. Joan agreed to supply Council members with a copy of the Community Monitoring questionnaire for them to review.

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.

10. Canada's Oceans Strategy - Update

Gina Elliott, Integrated Management Planner for DFO in Inuvik, gave an update on initiatives linked to Canada's Ocean Strategy.

- Ecological and technical assessments have been completed for the Beaufort region but the socio-economic assessment needs more work. DFO is working with Inuvialuit Cultural Resources Centre to integrate traditional knowledge into the ecological assessment. NRC is doing an assessment of non-renewable resources.
- Consultations have begun with Aklavik, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk HTC's, Community Corporations and Elders' Committees. There are plans to do more consultations and to present what is known now. Some areas have now been identified in Beluga Management Plan. These areas could be protected under the Oceans Act. DFO is also meeting with oil and gas and tourism representatives.
- There will be a big meeting in March to bring all parties together to exchange information and make decisions on the direction of the program. It is the communities that will make decisions about establishing any Marine Protected Area. The communities will tell the working groups what they want who in turn will tell the Senior Management Committee. Then the FJMC make

recommendations to the Minister. If a Marine Protected Area is to be established then a regulatory plan and management plan will be developed.

- It is possible that there will be a partnership between DFO and FJMC to administer the MPA. This still has to be worked out.
- Tariaq Community Based Monitoring Program- This program includes target netting to look at contaminants and overall health and life history of certain fish species by monitoring fish abundance, health and water temperature. The Tariaq Program is linked to other initiatives such as the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op's Community Monitoring Program that includes marine questions in their annual interviews. Ice monitoring has been proposed for Tuktoyaktuk.
- DFO is starting a project to do habitat mapping in the Beaufort Sea.

The Chair noted that the Yukon North Slope Wildlife and Conservation Management Plan calls for coastal zone planning. There is a need for a larger discussion on coastal zone planning among the parties that are affected. It is important to determine how the parties will work together. Alan Fehr added that the Ivvavik National Park Management Plan includes the coastal area as far as Kaye Point.

Members expressed their concerns about how waterfowl and caribou would be affected by offshore activity. The Council asked to see copies of the assessments when they are completed.

Action 02-12-08: The Secretariat will contact Gina Elliott to find out the areas of the Beaufort Sea where DFO will be doing habitat mapping and to obtain copies of the assessment documents.

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.

11. North Slope Conference

The Chair commented that the Council needs to make some recommendations to the Yukon Government regarding the theme, location and Chair for the next North Slope Conference. The conference should be held in the fall of 2003.

Council members discussed a number of possibilities for the conference. Cumulative effects have been suggested as a theme by several people. And there is a continued interest to hold the conference in the region, possibly in Inuvik with excursions out onto the North Slope. Cost estimates for facilities and other hosting costs received from Arctic Nature Tours show that holding the conference in Inuvik would not be any more expensive than having it in Whitehorse. The biggest difference in price would be the cost of travel for people coming from outside of the region.

Members discussed the ideas for the kinds of workshops that could actually be held out on the North Slope. Such workshops would have to be pragmatic and functional. It would be important to show how the area is being or could be affected by various activities. The workshops should not be just sightseeing trips.

The conference could focus on attracting northern residents, especially those who use the area and make decisions about its management. Many people from the other Inuvialuit communities have never seen the North Slope. The conference could be used to educate people in the region about the North Slope. The conference theme could focus on education and orientation to the area. Issues addressed could include opening up the area to more economic opportunity and several issues related to Single Point.

The conference could also be an opportunity for taking stock. Now that several management and species plans have been completed, the conference would be a good venue to consider their implementation. It could also be an opportunity to celebrate what has been accomplished to date. There could be a day devoted to the implementation of the plans followed by a day out on the land to consider implementation issues. The Council agreed that a conference that incorporates a component out on the land will have limits as to the number of participants. There may be a need for the Yukon Government to restrict participation to only those who are invited and to limit the number of government representatives.

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.

12. Wildlife Management and Research- Updates

a) Yukon Government funded projects

Dorothy Cooley reported on several projects funded through YTG's IFA wildlife research funds.

- Porcupine caribou satellite collars- An invoice for this work is expected in December.
- Porcupine caribou herd conventional collars- This work will be done in March 2003. The \$17,600 allocated to the project will all be spent.
- Aklavik harvest data- The data from 2001 is being reviewed. Catherine Pinard has been talking to other agencies regarding any possibilities of overlap. Interviews were conducted in December and information was collected on moose, caribou, sheep and tundra swans. The second interviews for this year will be conducted in April and will include wolverine, wolf and lynx. The interviews are covering Inuvialuit households in Aklavik. Dorothy has been

talking to John Nagy about getting information from households in Inuvik. Because the second set of interviews won't be done until April, \$5000 of the funds allocated to this project will not be spent in this fiscal year.

- Ground temperatures and recent climate warming, Western Arctic Coast- This project was conducted by Chris Burn on Herschel Island. Chris was able to obtain temperature readings at only 15 m, not at 50 m as proposed. He will try again next year. All funds allocated were spent.
- Herschel Island monitoring Ranger training- \$2500 was spent. There will be 2 new rangers next summer who will require training.
- Herschel Island Vegetation Studies- This work is underway and going well.
- Richardson Mountains Joint Muskox Study- Dorothy has been talking to claimant groups to find out what they want to do in terms of muskox management. The \$5000 allocated to a meeting will probably not be needed.
- Richardson Mountains Sheep Joint Management Planning - Dorothy has been talking to claimant groups. An interest in hunting this population has been put forward by the GRRB but there is no real interest among the effected First Nations. The \$2500 allocated to this project won't be spent.
- Aklavik Hunter Education- YTG still hopes to do this project but there will be some funds left over.
- Muskox composition counts and surveys- All the funds allocated tot his project will be spent.

Dorothy estimated that there will be about \$4000 surplus in the budget overall that could be used elsewhere.

b) WMAC(NS)'s Traditional Knowledge Assessment Project

At the meeting in October, Barney Smith had asked the Council to provide a list of species for inclusion in this project.

Doug Larsen reported the list of species that had been suggested by Tom Jung as priorities for this project. This list, along with another one supplied by Wendy Nixon, were included in the meeting binder. Members agreed that some of the species selected for the project should be of national interest and some should be of local interest. Herbert suggested including grizzly bears, wolverine and Dolly Varden charr. Dorothy added Dall sheep, moose, arctic and red fox, wolf and wolverine. Snowy owls should also be considered as a good indicator species.

After some discussion, members agreed on the following species to be considered this year. Other species can be included in later years.

- Grizzly bear
- Wolverine
- Wolf
- Moose
- Snowy owl
- Ducks and geese
- Robins (as an example of a songbird)
- Red and arctic fox

Funds will come from the WMAC(NS) budget with YTG covering Barney's time. Alan Fehr commented that Parks Canada could provide some funding as well if needed.

13. COSEWIC

The Council has an action item to provide COSEWIC with comments on the wolverine status report. More information may be available once Barney's work is completed. Any comments submitted to COSEWIC should also be circulated to the members.

COSEWIC is going to have a 2-day meeting in Whitehorse in April. COSEWIC has invited all ten Wildlife Management Boards to join them for a 2-day session prior to this meeting. Council members discussed using this time as an opportunity to have an additional meeting with all these Boards, in order to discuss issues of common concern and to follow-up on issues that are raised at the COSEWIC meeting.

Action 02-12-11: WMAC(NS) will write to the ten Wildlife Management Boards invited to Whitehorse by COSEWIC in April to ask if they are interested in participating in an additional joint meeting to discuss issues of common concern.

L. Adjournment

Motion

To adjourn.

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

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date