



## MEETING MINUTES

# WMACNS QUARTERLEY MEETING

February 28 – March 2, 2018

Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre, Whitehorse, YT

## Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre, Whitehorse, YT

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**Lindsay Staples** (Chair), **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Matt Clarke** Yukon Government (Alternate), **Tyler Kuhn** Yukon Government (Member) **Dave Tavares** Government of Canada (Member), **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Gerry Kisoun** Inuvialuit Game Council (Alternate), **Michelle Gruben** Inuvialuit Game Council (Alternate), **Craig Machtans** Government of Canada (Alternate), **Kelly Milner** (WMACNS Staff), **Kaitlin Wilson** (WMACNS Staff), **Stephanie Muckenheim** Yukon Government, **Richard Gordon** Yukon Parks.

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### A. Call to Order <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

Lindsay Staples (Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

### B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Council reviewed the agenda. No revisions or additions or revisions were made.

*Approval of Agenda – Moved by Danny Gordon, seconded by Craig Machtans.*

### C. Review and Approval of Minutes

**November Meeting Minutes** – Two small typos and one change suggested by Craig Machtans.

*Approval of November 2017 Minutes subject to additional comments from Craig – Moved by Danny Gordon, seconded by Matt Clarke.*

**January Teleconference Minutes** – The minutes were reviewed. No changes were suggested.

***Approval of January 2018 Teleconference Minutes – Moved by Ernest Pokiak, seconded by Tyler Kuhn.***

**D. Review of Action Items** [L] [SEP]

WMACNS staff led the review of action items. The Action Item table is included as an appendix to these minutes.

***Action 18-02-01 – Follow up with YG staff regarding the timing of the public report on Grizzly bear research on North Slope.***

***Action 18-02-02 – Follow up with GNWT regarding updating ISR Grizzly Bear plan. Raise this issue at the WMACs Joint meeting in August/September.***

**E. Correspondence** [L] [SEP]

The Council reviewed correspondence in the file. There was discussion around Tom Jung’s beaver paper and potential research in the Yukon.

With regard to trapping generally on the Yukon North Slope, Yukon indicated that Inuvialuit can make any changes to who can trap as it is a group line by regulation.

***Action 18-02-03 – Follow up with North Yukon Regional biologist regarding future work on beavers on the Yukon North Slope***

***Action 18-02-04 – YG will provide a memo regarding how the Inuvialuit group trapline is managed, current bag limits and seasons as they apply to beaver, and options to address Inuvialuit interests in shooting beavers in addition to trapping them.***

**F. Report from the Chair**

**Arctic Net** [L] [SEP]

The Council sent a delegation to this year’s Arctic Net. We made a joint presentation with WMAC (NWT) on ISR polar bear TK research and a second presentation on the state of co-management in Canada. We also had two posters (one on our Traditional Use Study and another on our Wildlife Traditional Knowledge Habitat Study).

**Polar Bear Technical Committee**

This was a three-day meeting to review the current status and research programs for Canada’s 13 polar bear populations. The bulk of the work is carried out in Nunavut where there is a growing focus on non-invasive research techniques. For North and South Beaufort populations, the population status has remained the same (NB – stable, SB – likely declining). The status table now allows for multiple lines of evidence. Frustration was expressed regarding the lack of formal acknowledgement of TK as a line of evidence at the international level by the PBSG in its status table.

**IFA 101** [L] [SEP]

The Council has been invited to a 3-day workshop in Inuvik March 12-16. Inuvialuit

members will be in attendance and will follow up with staff to arrange for registration and travel.

### **Yukon North Slope East of the Babbage River**

The Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan needs to examine a potential designation for the area east of the Babbage River that allows for controlled development as defined by the IFA, subject to the requirements for conservation of wildlife, habitat and native use as recommended in the plan. This is a key area the Council will focus on this year.

### **CEAA 2018 Bill**

The new bill (C-69) has been tabled and is available for review. Staff will provide it to council members if they would like to read it.

## **G. Report from Staff**

### **Polar Bear Range States Meeting** <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

Kelly attended this meeting on behalf of the council. The meeting was positive and overall polar bears appear to be doing well in most places. The next meeting will be hosted by Norway. The meeting agenda and information package is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

### **Map**

The conservation areas map for the Yukon North Slope and adjacent areas has been completed. It is included as an appendix to these minutes.

***Action 18-02-05 The title of this map will be changed to Conservation areas. Levels of conservation will also be reviewed with EC (Craig).***

### **Summer Student** <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

WMA CNS has an opportunity to have a summer student through Chris Burn. Council deferred its discussion to the work planning session later during this meeting.

### **Website** <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

The website is almost complete. It should be available for the public in the next few weeks.

### **Published Reports**

The Traditional Use Study has been completed and the Traditional Knowledge Habitat Study will be printed in the next few weeks.

## **H. Report from Members**

### **Parks Canada** <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

The Ivvavik Park Management Plan has been forwarded to the Minister and an update will be provided to Council once there is a response. Parks Canada will be holding a

community meeting in Aklavik to discuss research results and new work planned for this summer. They will also be promoting summer hiring opportunities as a cook or a cultural host. Parks will also be hiring a new ecologist and WMACNS staff will participate in the screening committee. In addition, Parks is collaborating with the North Yukon Regional Biologist on several field programs over this summer.

**Government of Yukon**<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Grizzly Bear report will soon be finalized and will be distributed to the public. Other information relevant to the council is on the agenda.

**Government of Canada**

All information relevant to Government of Canada is included in the agenda.

**I. Porcupine Caribou**

**National Recovery Strategy – Saleem Dar, Shannon Stotyn (Environment Canada)**<sup>[SEP]</sup>

The process for the national Barren-ground Caribou Recovery Strategy was presented to the Council for their comments. The presentation is attached to these minutes as an appendix. The Council has until October 22, 2018 to provide any comments to the Federal Environment Minister regarding COSEWIC's recommendation of Threatened Status for barren-ground caribou nationally.

Council members asked about the size of the other herds and how that relates to Porcupine Caribou herd. There was discussion around development and how different levels might affect herds in other regions. Sport harvest was discussed as a potential problem for herds to the east, but not a significant issue for Porcupine Caribou. A question was raised about how designatable units are identified and are they established in legislation anywhere. It was clarified that the decision would be up to COSEWIC regarding the assessment of designatable units. The SARA designation of "threatened" does not create a conservation requirement that limits aboriginal harvesting rights. It was also asked how the existing Harvest Management Plan will be considered in the recovery planning process. The existing regime was acknowledged as a solid foundation, but critical habitat would still have to be addressed in a recovery strategy.

Key elements of a recovery strategy by herd would include: 1) Description of species and its needs; 2) Threats; 3) Critical Habitat; 4) Population and Distribution Objectives.

***Action 2018-02-06 WMAC(NS) Staff will draft a list of pros and cons regarding the potential outcome of listing the Porcupine caribou herd and will circulate them to Council members for additional input. Council will set aside time at their next meeting to review the listing and management planning process of barren-ground caribou and develop comments for submission by the October deadline.***

**Status Update – Mike Suitor**<sup>[SEP]</sup>

No monitoring has occurred since the last meeting. There is a new population estimate of about 218,000. The herd appears to be increasing at about 3.5% per year. Currently

there have not been many caribou near any user communities. The herd has stayed around Arctic Village and is likely to not move east until May. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has been working collaboratively to help identify best practices for development in the calving grounds. The sensitive habitats report is almost complete and should be ready for the public shortly. It needs to be published under a Canadian organization instead of the International Porcupine Caribou Board. However, the PCTC continues to work collaboratively at an operational level.

#### **Annual Harvest Meeting – Kaitlin Wilson**<sup>[L]<sub>SEP</sub></sup>

All parties presented harvest data at the Annual Harvest Meeting. There are some communities that are doing well, others that are struggling to meet meaningful harvest reporting standards. It was noted that under-reporting harvest does not help in the defending subsistence harvesting rights and harvest allocation in the event of a Total Allowable Harvest determination. It was also noted that year after year the PCMB identifies that there are problems with harvest reporting but it is up to the parties to figure out how to improve their data collection, but it has not occurred in a meaningful way to date.

The pilot project proposed by the Council is to develop a focus group approach for the community of Aklavik. WMAC(NS) staff have been working with partners, including AHTC, to develop a methodology that would work with Aklavik and be a defensible approach. There is also an opportunity to use the existing harvest data gathering process and have a project that runs at the same time to match up with harvest periods.

Comments were raised about using check stops as a way to monitor harvest. While there are some opportunities, it was suggested that check stations are best to provide harvest information, but not as a means of collecting harvest data.

The methodology will be developed over the next few months. Council will review the methodology and guidelines before it is released.

***Action 18-02-07 WMAC(NS) staff and North Yukon biologist will develop methodology for the harvest data focus groups in collaboration with the AHTC. Council members will review the draft methodology when it is complete.***

#### **Porcupine Caribou Traditional Knowledge Study – Mike Sutor**<sup>[L]<sub>SEP</sub></sup>

There was some discussion about this study at the last Porcupine Caribou Management Board meeting. Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation provided a presentation on how it conducts Traditional Knowledge studies on Porcupine Caribou. So far only Yukon Government has put any funding towards carrying out a Traditional Knowledge study. The plan is to have a full discussion about next steps for the Traditional Knowledge study at the next Porcupine Caribou Management Board meeting at the end of May.

#### **Porcupine Caribou Summit and International Activities – Craig Machtans**<sup>[L]<sub>SEP</sub></sup>

A summit of the Canadian Parties to the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement was held in late January. A working group was struck to develop a workplan for the parties, which should be ready by mid-April.

There is a push by the US administration to conduct seismic assessments in the next year and to open up lease sales with a push to have all areas open for sale sold by 2021 (or a second window by 2025). Development would occur after the lease sales, but could be soon. The plan is to slow all these activities down through legal challenges. There is also frustration about the misinformation that has been shared by the Alaskans.

**ADJOURNED at 4:05**

## **Thursday, March 1, 2018**

Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre, Whitehorse, YT

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**Lindsay Staples** (Chair), **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Matt Clarke** Yukon Government (Alternate), **Tyler Kuhn** Yukon Government (Member) **Dave Tavares** Government of Canada (Member), **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Gerry Kisoun** Inuvialuit Game Council (Alternate), **Michelle Gruben** Inuvialuit Game Council (Alternate), **Craig Machtans** Government of Canada (Alternate), **Kelly Milner** (WMACNS Staff), **Kaitlin Wilson** (WMACNS Staff), **Carrie Mierau** Yukon Parks, **Brian Johnston** Yukon Parks, **Richard Gordon** Yukon Parks, **Stephanie Muckenhien** Yukon Government.

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### **J. Herschel Island Heritage**

#### **Background: Description of roles and responsibilities of WMAC NS, as per the IFA, in relation to heritage issues – Lindsay Staples + Kelly Milner**

WMAC NS is responsible beyond IFA 12(56) for park management as a result of 12(9) and 12(17) which address the heritage and human dimensions of the planning and management of both the National and Territorial Parks. WMAC NS requested a report from Lisa Prosper to help define a standard or benchmark for heritage planning and management in Pauline Cove consistent with the IFA's reference to the area as falling under a management regime consistent with that of a National Historic Site (under the National Parks Act).

Specific to Herschel, the Council has not put as much focus or energy on heritage management (at least compared to Ivavik) in the past, but this is changing. There is a

need for the relationship between the Council and YG Heritage to evolve to reflect this new emphasis.

***Action 18-02-08 WMACNS staff will circulate the final report on Heritage Designation Comparisons to Yukon Parks, Yukon Heritage, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Ivvavik National Park.***

**K. Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park Management Plan –**  
Carrie Mierau, Brian Johnson, Richard Gordon

Yukon Parks staff described the process for developing a new park management plan to date and what the intention is for the next steps. The main elements of the new plan were reviewed with the council members. The draft management plan is attached to these notes as an appendix.

Council asked questions around the zoning and how that will be recognized. The interpretive plan was referenced and the concern that the Council never signed off on it. Questions were raised around designation of the historic settlement as a National Historic Site and how that relates to Heritage Goal 2, management action f. A question was raised around wording regarding World heritage designation. It was mentioned that an ISR policy for burial sites is under discussion with issues similar to those that have been raised with the treatment of Inuvialuit grave sites on Herschel.

The Herschel planning committee will meet one more time in April and will forward the final to WMACNS for review in May.

**L. Herschel Island – 2018 Work Plan –** Carrie Mierau, Richard Gordon

Yukon Parks staff provided an update to the Council on the start up for the new season. This year Parks will be revisiting its MOU with the Aklavik HTC over the use of the Hunters and Trappers Cabin. They will also be conducting a risk assessment of their operations and how they may be affected by changing weather conditions. The Council raised questions around researchers and reporting requirements. In particular, there was interest in the new research plan for the Alfred Wagner Institute

**M. Financial Review, Budget and Workplan**

WMACNS staff walked through the quarterly budget report prepared by the bookkeeper. All spending is on track. A draft budget for 2018/19 was presented to Council for their review. There were no major questions at this time.

***Motion - Approval of notional budget as presented, moved by Craig Machtans, seconded by Gerry Kisoun***

**N. Upcoming Meetings**

- Face-to-face/teleconference with Council and Round River – proposed for March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- IFA 101 in Inuvik – Michelle, Danny, Gerry to attend
- Summer retreat – Fly in to Sheep Creek July 18, fly out of Sheep Creek July 22 (Dave to see about overlapping with guests earlier in the month)
- I-I Meeting – Aug 7/8, 2018
- Joint WMAC Meeting in Whitehorse – Aug 28, 2018
- Fall Council Meeting – Aug 27-29, 2018
- Winter Council Meeting, including Aklavik visit – Dec 10-12, 2018
- Spring Council Meeting – Mar 5-7, 2019

\*\*\*Request to have 2 weeks notice for alternates, if regular member cannot attend

### **O. WMCP – Round River Workplan Review**

Discussion of 2017/18 Update and 2018/19 Proposed work plan in preparation for upcoming face-to-face meeting – Lindsay Staples

***Action 18-02-09 Council to review the provided workplan/update document in advance of March 19 and provide comments and priorities***

***Action 18-02-10 Pursue an assessment of tools/designations available to replace OIC for withdrawn area (prioritize to new fiscal year)***

## **Friday, March 2, 2018**

Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre, Whitehorse, YT

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**Lindsay Staples** (Chair), **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Matt Clarke** Yukon Government (Alternate), **Tyler Kuhn** Yukon Government (Member) **Dave Tavares** Government of Canada (Member), **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Gerry Kisoun** Inuvialuit Game Council (Alternate), **Michelle Gruben** Inuvialuit Game Council (Alternate), **Craig Machtans** Government of Canada (Alternate), **Kelly Milner** (WMACNS Staff), **Kaitlin Wilson** (WMACNS Staff), **Stephanie Muckenhiem** Yukon Government, **Barb Coppard** Yukon Government.

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### **P. Polar Bear/Grizzly Bear Bylaws – Barb Coppard**

Yukon Government has been developing a polar bear bylaw to allow for a single tag administration across the Yukon/NWT border. The summary is that this is a very complicated issue to make the HTC bylaws into regulations under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*.

The current approach is to mirror the HTC bylaws in regulation. It requires adaptations to current regulation system. Draft legislation is being reviewed for approval by cabinet and then consulting this spring and summer with IGC, HTC, both WMACs, GNWT. The



final regulations will then be reviewed and approved by Cabinet.

It was noted that it would be helpful to have legal representation at the meetings. Possibly YG IFA implementation money could be made available.

The Council noted that grizzly bear bylaws will be the next issue to address. The question was raised about the process for consultations on preferential harvesting (grizzly bear) versus exclusive (polar bear).

***Action 18-02-11 The Council will receive a letter from the department with consultation information on the polar bear bylaw this spring and will organize a conference call that includes IGC and HTC.***

The Yukon's Grizzly Bear Management Plan is almost complete and will be circulated to Yukon First Nations and Inuvialuit for initial comment before it is released for public review. There will be an opportunity to provide comment on the need to address the incorporation of bylaws as per the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan.

***Action 18-02-13 The Council will receive a letter from the department with the draft grizzly bear plan and will review at an upcoming meeting.***

***Action 18-02-14 The Council will request an information update on the Parks Hunting Regulations for our joint WMACs meeting. Council will circulate information prior to the meeting.***

Yukon Government also updated the Council on trapping regulations for the group line (Concession 403) on the Yukon North Slope. The way it is now administered that any Inuvialuit can harvest any furbearers. Yukon Government would like recommendations from Council on removing the list of harvesters and adjusting the boundary to follow ISR guidelines. It will remain a concession to provide the Inuvialuit the flexibility to allow for non Inuvialuit to have assistant licence.

***Action 18-02-15 The Council will send a letter to the Minister of Environment to remove the Inuvialuit group line and adjust the boundary and encourage these changes be made in a timely manner.***

**Q. Herschel Island Heritage Update – Barb Hogan**

Yukon Government provided an update on the work Heritage is doing on historic sites. The focus is the "built heritage" at Herschel Island. In 1990 a Heritage Conservation Plan was developed for Herschel Island. This is currently being updated. It is not ready for review yet. The plan identifies the conservation philosophy, analyzes suitability of facilities for different functions, and future conservation planning that may be required. It was clarified that the site is not managed to a specific date, but to the era of each building.

***Action 18-02-15 WMAC staff will follow up with Heritage and request a copy of the draft Herschel Island Heritage Plan and will distribute it to Council members for their review.***

The question was raised about hiring local Inuvialuit to assist in restoration activities. Council requested the plan be shared with Inuvialuit to review the philosophy and ensure it aligns with their interests. Clarification was asked about the mandate specific to built heritage.

The summer work plan was shared. They will be hiring 3 carpenter assistants from ISR and a cook. They will also be doing an archeology project and will also be hiring Inuvialuit assistance.

Clarification was requested on the heritage conservation plan and proposed interventions. The plan also looks at the historic site as a whole.

The draft plan does not contain a Commemorative Integrity Statement. It uses a Heritage Character Statement instead. The Herschel Island Management Plan identifies an approach for designation. Questions were asked regarding what designation makes the most sense.

Question regarding human remains is something that needs to be addressed on an ISR level.

***Action 18-02-16 WMAC Staff will share the Lisa Prosper report with Yukon Heritage.***

#### **R. Regional Biologist Update – Mike Suitor**

The primary projects have been focused on caribou. The project to do the habitat assessment for caribou has been carried out. Products to be completed by the fall will be seasonal habitat maps and that can be used in management planning and monitoring landscape change. The group is working with ABOVE to map lichen and shrubs across the north and both products should be ready for the fall. Sensitive Habitat work is almost complete. A request for supplemental funding for the caribou habitat project has been submitted and YG has agreed to support the final information for use in the conservation plan. There is a new project on beaver distribution mapping being developed with a modeling and mapping budget for next steps. Polar bear data contracts are now in place to compile and analyze data from the 2017 surveys. The funding is available. Richardson sheep management planning is moving forward. The proposal for remote camera work has been updated and was distributed to the Council members for review.

***Motion 2018-02-02 Herschel Island camera trap project approved. Moved by Dave Tavares. Seconded by Craig Machtans.***

***Action 18-02-17 Staff will circulate the Muskox Plan to the council members for review and comment. WMAC staff will provide support to compile comments and produce final product.***

#### **S. Final Discussion**

##### **Access to Reports**

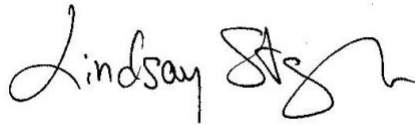
Council had a discussion about whether there is an interest in making publications open access to the public.

**2018-02-18 Lindsay will bring a proposal to the JS Board that public reports resulting from research that is funded and supported by the IFA should be made available through open access. Tyler will assist with the preparation of a briefing note.**

**Heritage**

**2018-02-19 WMAC will send a letter outlining expectations about the role of the Council and how we expect to review future heritage planning. Attach the Prosper report and include reference to exploration of different options.**

Adjourned 1:20



July 14, 2020

Date

Lindsay Staples, WMAC (North Slope)  
Chair



July 14, 2020

Date

Allison Thompson, Staff

