



WMAC NS Regular Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2021

Attendees: Lindsay Staples, Dave Tavares, Billy Archie (for a few minutes), Craig Machtans, Mike Sutor, Matt Clarke, Michelle Gruben, Billy Storr, Allison Thompson, Kaitlin Wilson

Meeting called to order at 1:10pm.

Agenda

Lindsay provided an overview of the agenda. No comments or concerns.

Motion 2021-02-01 to accept the February 17th agenda as tabled. Moved by Matt Clarke, seconded by Billy Storr.

Minutes

January 20th Joint AHTC + WMAC NS minutes

HTC discussed the IFA research proposals at the last meeting - WMAC NS can expect a letter shortly.

Motion 2021-02-02 to accept the joint teleconference with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee minutes as drafted. Moved by Dave Tavares, seconded by Billy Storr.

January 25th WMAC NS meeting

Motion 2021-02-03 to accept the January 25th WMAC NS meeting minutes as drafted. Moved by Billy Storr, seconded by Matt Clarke.

Action items

Action Item 2021-01-01 Staff will follow up with Billy Archie about the harvest report and any questions/concerns he might have about grizzly bear. These can be discussed at a future meeting.

- Mike has put in a request with Jodie Pongracz to look at tooth data from harvested grizzly bears. Information from teeth can help us understand if there has been a change in the population.

Action Item 2021-01-02 Staff will work with the appropriate government representatives to ensure that the correct population data are used in the GNWT Harvest Report.

- Mike has been in touch with GNWT on this matter.



Action Item 2021-01-04 Staff will work with Billy Storr and the HTC (if they would like to designate someone) to prepare for the grizzly bear threat assessment call.

- Michelle participated in the first call.

Presentations

Maria Leung (Yukon KBA coordinator) and Ciara Craudsepp (Wildlife Conservation Society) – Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in Ivvavik National Park

Members received a summary briefing note on the KBA program. The presentation is also available in the meeting package.

Ciara provided an overview of the KBAs in Canada. Site-scale approach to conservation and biodiversity protection. Scientific assessment is used to determine whether or not a site is a key place for biodiversity and conservation. Either a site meets the criteria or not. No management prescription follows - it's up to the jurisdictions involved to make any decisions about how to apply the KBA information layer.

Maria spoke on the Yukon-specific efforts for a KBA (21 in Yukon). One of these falls in Ivvavik National Park (the largest in Yukon). The Porcupine Caribou Herd is the main trigger for this KBA (criteria D1a). The next steps are to do a technical review and receive input.

Dave - in a place like Ivvavik, a KBA would mean global recognition of the importance for caribou as a species, the region already has protection as a national park and through the PCH

Maria – The value-added is bringing it to the global stage, especially with the uncertain future of ANWR. Post-calving could also be considered a life stage.

Lindsay noted the importance of the area east of the park (Aullaviat/Aunguniarvik) for the post-calving life stage.

Ciara - it's also an opportunity to showcase great management, in an area with considerable biodiversity outside of the tropics.

5. Chair/Staff/Member Reports

HR Discussion - in camera, no staff

The Council discussed the draft. Lee is making further revisions to the manual and will flag these for review. Council is looking to sign off on the manual at the next meeting in March.



Financial and legal liability of Council members, as it pertains to society status, are to be added to the next meeting agenda.

6. Correspondence

IRC Climate Change Strategy

- Kait provided an update to WMAC NS on this file.
- IGC and WMAC NWT wrote a letter to IRC about lack of meaningful engagement from IRC on this and other files.
- Brian Park, who is leading the IRC climate change strategy, has offered to present to WMAC NS
- The timelines provided by IRC thus far have precluded Council review. Staff have submitted technical comments on the strategy, which IRC have provided feedback on.

IRC Cruise Ship Management Plan

- Deadline for comments is March 4
- Likely of interest to Yukon
- Unclear if or how IRC collaborated with Herschel Island Qikiqtaruk Parks staff
- The Management Plan did go to the HTC, but the maps were too small to read, so the HTC is requesting a presentation from IRC
- Dave: virtually no information on national Parks regulatory/permitting regimes - this is a glaring omission. We could submit this as a comment, especially as this is a strategy in the Ivvavik Park Plan (2018). There is an error on p. 36 - drones are not prohibited in National Parks, they are regulated. WMAC NS could recommend that IRC engage with the Western Arctic Field Unit.
- Lindsay: We can point them toward the Yukon tourism regulations, too.
- Michelle: Remind IRC of the Herschel Island Qikiqtaruk Management Plan as well.

Action Item 2021-02-01 Staff will invite Brian Park to the next regular meeting and Council will review the draft IRC climate change strategy.

Action Item 2021-02-02 Staff will response to IRC regarding the draft cruise ship management plan regarding possible connections to existing management documents and suggested edits.

7. Information Items

Online Presence Summary

- This document, that Kait produced, summarizes the visits to the website, the podcast, etc. It's very interesting! Lots of visits from Americans.

8. Upcoming Meetings



We want to schedule two meetings:

- Finances, notional budget for 2021-22
- Discussion of next WMAC NS Chair
- Return to HR manual

Craig: What is the expectation from YG and Minister Frost, for feedback from Inuvialuit and Canada members, on the Chair nominations?

Matt: No exact formula envisioned. A signal from other Parties via correspondence would be appropriate.

Craig: at a future meeting it would be good to talk about a pilot project for Aklavik collecting PCH harvest data, especially, given the current situation with CBMP.

Allison: there is a new TLK team lead at the Joint Secretariat who is aware of the need to prioritize the Harvest Study. Gilly may join us at an upcoming meeting.

Michelle: with the pandemic, we are missing out on a lot of good harvest information in this unique year. Billy Storr attends PCMB and without the program he cannot bring forward harvest data.

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

Motion 2021-02-04 to adjourn the meeting – Moved by Craig Machtans, Seconded by Billy Storr