

## WMAC NS Teleconference

### November 25, 2020

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**Attendees:** **Dave Tavares** (Canada member), **Billy Storr** (IGC Representative), **Billy Archie** (IGC Representative), **Kaitlin Wilson** (WMAC NS staff), **Allison Thompson** (WMAC NS staff), **Lindsay Staples** (WMAC NS Chair), **Craig Machtans** (Canada alternate), **Mike Suitor** (Yukon Government technical support), **Matt Clarke** (Yukon alternate), **Tyler Kuhn** (Yukon member)

#### **Agenda:**

Kait provided an overview of the agenda.

**Motion 2020-11-01** to accept agenda as presented. Moved by Billy Storr, seconded by Tyler Kuhn.

#### **Minutes:**

Lindsay tabled the October 28, 2020 minutes.

**Motion 2020-11-02** to accept the October 28, 2020 minutes as tabled. Moved by Billy Archie, seconded by Dave Tavares.

#### **Action Items:**

Kait provided an overview of the action items. All the action items from October are complete. We will circle back to the 'Aklavik outreach' action item at a future meeting.

#### **Correspondences:**

Kait provided a summary of the correspondence. There is only one piece of correspondence, a request for input on *Species at Risk Act* documents from ECCC. There is a draft management plan for buff-breasted sandpiper and a draft recovery strategy for gypsy cuckoo bumble bee. The gypsy cuckoo bumble bee recovery strategy defines critical habitat for the bee as a 10km radius around any nest - and the activities that could affect critical habitat include having commercial bees in or adjacent to the habitat, or using pesticides within critical habitat. Kait will accept comments from the Council until late next week.

Billy: found a caribou on the beach around Kay Point a few years ago, its rump was loaded up with bumble bees. They were very small.

Mike might have some info on this, can share it with Billy.

#### **Discussion Items:**

##### *WCMP Discussion*

Lindsay and John have had a number of calls with IRC legal Counsel. Coming out of the discussions with IRC, there are no significant changes from the Nov 12th version of the WCMP that the Council has seen. John and Lindsay will make some revisions to the Plan. We expect that IRC will be prepared to sign off on the Plan by the end of this week.

Evan is in receipt of the draft letter from IRC to the Minister (drafted by WMAC) that provides support for the WCMP to proceed to public engagement. This letter should be going out in the next week or so.

##### Major points of discussion with IRC (changes to the WCMP in bold):

IRC does not want individual clauses from the IFA in the Plan, based on case law that explains that modern claims cannot be read in part or cherry picked. However, this Plan is strongly based in the guidance of the IFA and does not provide clauses totally out of context. Further, it's important to ground the Plan with these

clauses, as many people implementing the Plan are more familiar with the UFA, which is quite different. These **IFA clauses remain in the Plan.**

A **disclaimer added up front in the Plan** addresses some of IRC concern about legal implications, especially regarding the meaning of conservation requirements. A **definition of “conservation requirements” has been added** to the WCMP (in the glossary).

**Expanded section about IFA principles.** This addresses the concept of balancing the three principles and their relationship to the WCMP and Chapter 12 - there are of course collateral economic benefits, but that is not the main goal of the Plan.

Discussion of the word “protect/protection” - this Plan is based heavily on the IFA, which itself uses these terms. Lindsay and John have drafted **new language to address this definition**, and tie it to the language around conservation and protection in the IFA and the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement.

Tyler suggested amending the definition to address the whole YNS, not just some geographic areas.

The Council briefly discussed the similarities between “protection” and “conservation” as used in the WCMP. Craig suggested citing the references to protection in the IFA in the definition of “protection”. Lindsay will re-work the definition and get back to the Council. **Ultimately, there will be a definition of protection added to the Plan.**

IRC is sending positive signals about their willingness to support Aullaviat/Aunguniarvik as quantum for Canada’s protected areas land quantum target. There would still be some sort of “Establishment Agreement”.

In the Canada Wildlife Act, an early section allows for Canada (via establishment agreement) to flow money to a conservation initiative without the application of a federal legal management tool under the Act.

There may also be federal surplus that could be directed to implementation of an establishment agreement. Further, in addition to the \$2.5 million already on the table, there is a notional commitment of \$1.5 million being proposed by interested foundations.

Dave: there are a couple of options for getting to Canada’s endorsement of advancing the WCMP to public consultation. We can lean on the discussion from the Meeting of the Parties and proceed as we are (this option is acceptable internally). The other option is option 1 plus a Director General level letter. This request would require the letter of support from IRC (drafted, but not yet set to YG).

Tyler: does not think that the Director General letter would be necessary.

Lindsay noted that the draft letter of transmittal to YG is in the Dropbox folder as of earlier this morning.

Craig: suggest adding a “curious question” to the letter about the need for 1 or 2 Cabinet approvals.

Tyler: a request to potentially skip the second Cabinet round is in our briefing package right now.

Billy: can ask IGC for a motion in support of advancing the Plan at their Dec. meeting.

Letter of transmittal includes a quote from IGC Chair indicating support for the Plan. This will be replaced by an IGC motion indicating support.

Jen: WMAC is planning to take on the public engagement process - this is indicated in the letter. Also, Jen will be reaching out to other groups to confirm support.

**Motion 2020-11-03** Subject to minor revisions as discussed by Council, WMAC NS recommends the draft WCMP to Yukon to initiate the public engagement period. Moved by Billy Storr, seconded by Dave Tavares.

Tyler Kuhn and Matt Clarke, as representatives for the Government of Yukon, are also in support of the motion.

**Action item 2020-11-01** Staff will work with Tyler to finalize the WCMP letter of transmittal to YG.

#### *HR Matters*

Lee Vincent Proposal: Kait provided an overview of the proposal from Lee Vincent (Visionary Seeds). This stems from a long-standing Council action item to update the personnel policies. This is timely, too, because the Joint Secretariat has been updating their internal Council policies too, working with Lee. There are some other "workplace support" items that Lee can help the staff with - like planning, professional development, etc. There could be some support around transition planning as well. We have other parts of our Council's business that we contract out - such as legal work and financial accounting. It follows that there's a need to contract out some of our HR work as well. Some of this work involves upfront costs, and some of the work would be on an ongoing, as-needed basis. The policy updating will likely be covered by the Joint Secretariat. For workplace support, there's front end work (things we've never done before, like some work on defining staff roles) and ongoing support (work life balance, prioritization of tasks, etc.).

**Motion 2020-11-04** to accept the Visionary Seeds proposal as presented and proceed to a contract. Moved by Tyler Kuhn, seconded by Billy Archie.

#### Maternity and parental leave:

The Joint Secretariat has recently revised their maternity and parental leave policies. They have approved a policy that matches the federal maternity and parental leave policies. The JS Board compared what the Northern Power Corp, Federal government, and NWT government provided. The JS Board ultimately decided to support the federal government mat/parental leave structure. Given the funding increase received by the Council three years ago, there is room available in the budget to accommodate the increased cost in topping up maternity/paternal leave to match the federal government.

Billy S, Tyler, Dave are in support.

Tyler wondering about having this policy cover Board members?

Billy Archie mentioned that the HTCs should have two staff too.

Billy Storr: Also wondering about covering Board members.

**Motion 2020-11-05** to proceed with maternity and parental leave top up matching the federal standard. Moved by Dave Tavares, seconded by Billy Archie.

Society status: deferred to next meeting

#### IGC member compensation:

We want to make sure that we are compensating members fairly. We are currently drafting a new policy and will give members ample time to review and provide input on this at a future meeting.

## **Staff/Member/Chair Updates**

### Chair update:

Lindsay presented a draft resolution for IGC and YG Minister to appoint a new Chair to the Council

YG has requested that the decision to sign the motion be delayed to give YG time to discuss possible candidates. Lindsay had hoped to have this motion before the IGC next week, so that the recommendation could go to the Minister in December.

The current Chair did consider a few other names for this position. YG would like to be able to suggest some possible candidates, as well, even though there is support for the current proposed candidate.

Council has also not had the opportunity to discuss the options together.

Billy S noted that other processes under the IFA include putting out an open call for candidates.

Craig noted that having a choice for the Minister might be a sign of respect and could be preferred.

**Action item 2020-11-02** YG will consider other possible candidates and Council will have further discussion on a potential recommendation at the December WMAC NS meeting.

Billy noted that folks in Aklavik have a keen interest in this decision. There is trust in the current person who is proposed.

Dave noted that if we are looking at multiple names, we need some additional information to compare any individuals being considered, especially as some will be known to us and others might not be.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

ArcticNet (Dec 7-10)

WMAC NS (Dec 16, 1-4pm MT)

PBTC (Feb 2021)

PBAC (Teleconferences)

**Motion 2020-11-06** to adjourn. Moved by Billy Storr, seconded by Tyler Kuhn.