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Tammaqtailinahuernirit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitqhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

April 13th 2017

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Christine Cleghorn
Co-Chair
Polar Bear Administrative
Committee

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Summary of NWMB's Pre-hearing Teleconference on the draft agenda for the public hearing on the *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-management Plan*

On March 30th 2017, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) held a pre-hearing teleconference on the draft agenda for the public hearing on the *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-management Plan* (Plan). In attendance at the teleconference were delegates from the three Regional Wildlife Organizations, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment (GN-DOE), the Polar Bear Administrative Committee and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). The purpose of the teleconference was to discuss the draft agenda that was sent out on March 29th 2017.

At the March 30th teleconference, the NWMB heard concerns from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) and from NTI about NWMB's limited funding assistance (travel and accommodation costs) for (6) six representatives from each of the (3) three Nunavut Regions. The NWMB explained that it has a modest operating budget to carry out its many duties and responsibilities assigned under the *Nunavut Agreement*, and that such duties and responsibilities do not include the payment of costs for party representatives to attend an

NWMB hearing. Nevertheless, the Board was able to secure sufficient funding to finance the attendance of 18 regional delegates in total.

The Kivalliq Wildlife Board and the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board expressed concerns about the multi-day layover that would be required for delegates traveling from the west. The GN-DOE suggested that one solution would be to hold the hearing in Yellowknife. However, while the Yellowknife option would reduce the multi-day layover for western Nunavut delegates, it would also result in a comparable multi-day layover for delegates from the east. All things considered, in the NWMB's view, Iqaluit (the capital of Nunavut) is a more appropriate location to hold the hearing than Yellowknife (the capital of the Northwest Territories).

There were also suggestions to change the dates of the hearing so as to reduce the multi-day layover for delegates traveling from the Nunavut western regions. In response, the hearing dates have now been moved to June 6-8 at the Cadet Hall in Iqaluit, which should reduce the multi-day layover.

The QWB and NTI also expressed concern that the proposed 3-day timeline in June is too short for the hearing. The NWMB responded that a 3-day hearing has historically been sufficient for Proposals similar in scope to the Plan.¹ In addition, the Board explained that, if the hearing did not take place in June, it would likely be delayed for several months.

ECCC and QWB requested that the World Wildlife Fund and the Makivik Corporation, respectively, have separate time-slots on the agenda. Those requests have been accommodated in the new agenda, which is attached to this correspondence.

At the end of the call, the NWMB summarized the call and stated that it understood there to be a consensus among the call participants on the 3-day duration of the hearing, as well as on the agenda's proposed timelines for party submissions and resulting questions and answers. None of the teleconference delegates expressed any disagreement, and no further questions or concerns were raised.

Yours sincerely,



Jason Akearok
Executive Director of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

¹ For example, the 2010 Hearing to list Polar Bear as a species of special concern under the *Species at Risk Act*, and the 2012 *Narwhal Integrated Fisheries Management Plan* Hearing. The complete Hearing Registry for both hearings can be found at the nwmb.com website.