

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES: CONFERENCE CALL No. 18

WEDNESDAY, 6 MARCH 1996

Participants:

Ben Kovic	Chairperson
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Kevin McCormick	Member
David Igutsaq	Member
Gordon Koshinsky	Member
Malachi Arreak	Member
Marius Tungilik	Member
Meeka Mike	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Dan Pike	Director, Wildlife Management
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter

Not Available:

David Aglukark	Member (with cause)
----------------	---------------------

1. Call to Order

The Chairperson, Ben Kovic, convened the Conference Call at 11:00 a.m.

2. Agenda

Mr. Kovic identified three items for agenda:

- Hunt location, 1996 bowhead hunt,
- Hunt licensee, 1996 bowhead hunt, and
- Facilitating polar bear Management Agreements

3. Hunt Location, 1996 Bowhead Hunt

Ben Kovic reminded the Board of its decision to move the hunt from Duke of York Bay (as per the recommendation of the Hunt Planning Committee) to Repulse Bay (as per the decision of the NWMB: Ikaluktutiak Meeting, Resolution 96-079), and of the Board's request to him to discuss the decision with key individuals from the two communities (Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay) prior to making an announcement. Ben advised that he had undertaken the discussion by way of a conference call. Coral Harbour representatives expressed keen disappointment that the hunt location was moved without their input, and identified alternative hunt locations which they deemed more appropriate than Repulse Bay. Ben queried whether the Board wished to stand by its decision.

Joannie Ikkidluak reiterated his view that Repulse Bay offered major economies in terms of cost and effort, as well as a more reliable location for the hunt. The two communities should work together to organize and undertake the hunt. Ben Kovic noted that questions of monetary cost should be of only incidental concern to the Board, since the Board was contributing funds only for planning. Gordon Koshinsky pointed out that the physical location of the hunt need not constrain or determine the hunt participants, and care should be taken to ensure that the licence is made flexible in that regard. David Igutsaq stated that it was not Inuit tradition to argue about access to animals, and such behaviour could be expected to jeopardize the success of the hunt. Marius Tungilik predicted that the Board can expect to face this kind of acrimony when it makes allocation decisions in the face of competing interests. Malachi Arreak suggested that the Board should have confined its participation to setting the total allowable harvest, leaving selection of the hunt location to the Hunt Planning Committee.

The Board decided to re-affirm the original Board decision (Resolution 96-079), and to announce the decision in terms that acknowledge the concerns expressed by the communities.

4. Hunt Licensee, 1996 Bowhead Hunt

A number of alternatives for licensee were examined by the Board:

- The NWMB. Kevin McCormick pointed out that if the Board sets the TAH, the Board cannot realistically hold the licence (i.e. the Board would not be able to effectively oversee its own participation).
- The Community or the HTA. Gordon Koshinsky pointed out that this would minimize flexibility regarding participation in the actual hunt.
- The RWO (Keewatin Wildlife Federation).

