

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING No.3

15 APRIL 1996

IQALUIT, NT - CADET HALL

Members and Staff

Ben Kovic	Chairperson
David Igutsaq	Member
Gordon Koshinsky	Member
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
David Aglukark	Member
Kevin McCormick	Member
Meeka Mike	Member
Marius Tungilik	Member
Malachi Arreak	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Dan Pike	Director, Wildlife Management
Pierre Chartrand	Director, Finance and Admin.
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor
Mary Nashook	Interpreter

1. Opening by Chairperson

Ben Kovic convened the meeting at 2:00 P.M., welcoming the members to Iqaluit.

2. Review/Renewal of Legal Advisor's Contract

Jim Noble advised the Board that Michael d'Eça's contract had expired and renewal of this contract would require Board approval. Jim provided a letter from Michael d'Eça outlining his desire to continue as legal advisor for the Board and requesting a longer-term contract. Kevin McCormick noted that Michael has provided very good service to the Board and more security would benefit everyone. Kevin suggested the Board consider putting Michael on a full-time salary, possibly for a period of three years or on a full-time contract. Malachi Arreak agreed with Kevin McCormick's suggestion. Marius Tungilik generally agreed with the others but suggested that the Board consider a formal tender. Kevin McCormick noted that the Board did "tender out" the contract initially and that Michael d'Eça's rates were lower than the other bidders. It was decided that the Board would extend Michael d'Eça's for a period of three years and that the Executive Director be given authority to negotiate a small percentage rate increase.

Motion 97- 001

3. Review of Bids for Fisheries Advisor Contract

Jim Noble advised the Board that two bids had been received for the Fisheries Advisor Contract and that a decision was required. Gordon Koshinsky suggested that an assessment and recommendation should be provided by the Wildlife Management Director. Kevin McCormick observed that Henry Copestake has been (and continues to) represent the GNWT on fisheries matters and voiced concern regarding possible conflict of interest. Michael d'Eça referred the Board to the Procedures Manual item on Conflict of Interest. Malachi Arreak noted that Sandy Lewis is more geared towards DFO and seems to have a broader focus. Malachi noted that Sandy Lewis' quote was very high. Malachi questioned whether an RFP had been provided, as the two bidders do not seem to be coming from the same perspective. Malachi also noted that Board members should be attending some fisheries meetings. Ben Kovic replied that he often attends meetings but feels better when someone is along to advise him. Marius Tungilik noted that there is certainly a need for a fisheries advisor. Marius suggested that the quality of the advisor is more important than the costs associated. Marius suggested that the Board must have standards/procedures to invite such proposals. The Board may have competent candidates, but may get in trouble without going to/through a RFP procedure. Malachi Arreak agreed with Marius and suggested that Beneficiaries need to be confident of the Board's processes and procedures. Jim Noble noted that a formal RFP procedure had not been followed in an attempt to minimize the process. Jim noted that the two individuals were invited to co-venture, but couldn't seem to come to terms. Kevin McCormick questioned whether the Board was really clear on what it wants or needs for this contract. Malachi Arreak restated his concern that there needs to be a proper process of tendering and that "Northern Contractors" have an equal opportunity to bid. Gordon Koshinsky suggested that the Board define the need in a formal RFP and that the current/two individuals be hired as and when required in the interim. It was decided that the Board should develop a clear statement of need and that a formal RFP process be followed for the fisheries advisor contract.

Motion 97- 002

Board members felt that it very important to clarify the Procedures Manual relating to procurement of goods, services and personnel to support its operation and passed a motion to ensure that staff complete this task.

Gordon Koshinsky noted that some aspects of these rules already exist in the current Procedures Manual. Kevin McCormick observed that the question of signing authorities is also an important part of this policy.

Motion 97-003

4. Review and Approval of Loan to KHTA

Jim Noble noted that this item stems from Motion 96-097 (Cambridge Bay meeting). The motion authorized the Board “to provide bridge-funding which may be required in the interim (for future funding recovery).” The Board recently gave KHTA a loan of \$140,027 (payment was actually made to Pelly Bay Coop) to assist with payment of construction of an office for the Pelly Bay HTA. Jim noted that a further \$40,000 might be required to ensure continued operation of the KHTA until new year funds can be accessed. David Aglukark questioned whether the money was used responsibly. Pierre Chartrand noted that an audit report for the first seven months of 1995/96 indicated that the RWO had deficient accounting records and internal control. The KHTA Board had decided in June of 1995 to use the special funding provided by the NWMB to construct an office for Pelly Bay HTA. However, poor budgeting and heavy expenses incurred by KHTA in the first seven months of the year, left no funds for the commitment to Pelly Bay. David Aglukark questioned how KHTA planned to pay this loan back. Pierre Chartrand advised that he had requested the Chairman and Executive Director of KHTA to develop a repayment plan. The possibility of a mortgage on the Pelly Bay building was discussed. Kevin McCormick questioned how the \$180,027 figure was arrived at. Pierre Chartrand explained that this was the amount required to pay off the balance of what was owed to the Pelly Bay Coop and to keep the KHTA afloat to year-end. Kevin McCormick suggested that the Board impose conditions on KHTA rather than negotiating. Gordon Koshinsky questioned what the \$180,027 represented in terms of KHTA’s overall budget. Pierre Chartrand advised that KHTA had received a 1995/96 contribution of \$92,846 and a one-time Special Funding contribution of \$88,293 for the same period, for a total of \$181,139. Marius Tungilik noted that the Board must not send the signal that they will reward bad management. The Board needs to have guidelines in place regarding such matters. Marius suggested that it would have been better to hold a conference call before these funds were released. Ben Kovic noted that he had asked the President of NTI about these situations. He had been advised that the Board should take all steps to keep these organizations alive and that training had to be key. Ben suggested that if the Harvest Study was to proceed, the Board had to ensure that KHTA stayed afloat. Michael d’Eça asked what the NWMB’s responsibilities are with regard to the RWO/HTOs, suggesting that the only actual provision in the NFA is for the Board to “provide adequate funding.” The relationship to Inuit Organizations, NTI etc. is not very clear. Malachi Arreak noted that if a RWO or HTO fails utterly, there are provisions to start a new organization. NWMB funding to RWO/HTOs is meant to support their additional work as per the NFA. David Igutsaq suggested the RWO Chairperson should know what is going on (did go on) with management of the funds. David suggested that the KHTA may need to find more competent workers. Ben Kovic suggested that the Chairperson has known about the problem for a long time. The Board decided to approve the loan of \$140,027 to KHTA with conditions.

Motion 97-004

5. Purchase of New Vehicle

Ben Kovic noted that he had called individual members regarding purchase of a new vehicle for the Board and that a formal motion was required for the purchase. Gordon Koshinsky suggested that the Board not sell the present vehicle without considering alternate uses for it.

Motion 97-005

6. Lease of Additional Office Space for NWMB

Jim Noble noted that the Chairman had discussed the acquisition of additional office space with individual members and that it had been agreed to seek additional space in the new office building. Jim noted that the initial space was sufficient for current staff, however there was no provision for additional staff or training positions. Jim explained that the QWB was also looking for new office space and that the NWMB could joint-venture with them in acquiring additional space. Ben Kovic noted that it would mean separation of staff again; however the distance now would not be a major factor. Kevin McCormick suggested that a long-term commitment might not be appropriate when considering training positions. Jim Noble noted that this agreement for additional space would only be for a three-year period. The Board approved the concept of increasing the size of the new office.

Motion 97-006

7. NWMB Communications

Ben Kovic noted that the Beneficiaries are questioning what the NWMB is doing. Ben suggested that it is time for the Board to consider a Communications Officer position. Marius Tungilik agreed that communication is one of the Board's main functions and that a policy is required. Malachi Arreak suggested that the upcoming strategic planning session would probably address this issue. It was agreed to leave this item for the strategic planning session.

8. Inuvik Beluga Workshop

Dan Pike advised that the Board had been invited to a workshop in Inuvik pertaining to Beaufort Sea beluga. Recent scientific evidence indicates some possibility that Nunavut people may hunt these belugas at certain periods. A Nunavut "hunter" has been invited to participate in this workshop.

Malachi Arreak suggested that David Aglukark or Joannie Ikkidluak be requested to attend. David Aglukark requested that he be accompanied by resource staff if he was to attend. It was agreed that David Aglukark would attend and that Dan Pike would accompany him.

9. Review of Date of May Meeting

Next meeting of the NWMB will be the week of May 13 (as originally scheduled).

10. Meeting Adjourned

Minutes Approved By: _____
Ben Kovic, Chairperson