

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES: SPECIAL MEETING NO. 7

10-11 MARCH 1998
IQALUIT, NT

Members and Staff Participating:

Ben Kovic	Chairperson
Kevin McCormick	Member
Meeka Mike	Member
David Tagoona	Member
Gordon Koshinsky	Member
Makabe Nartok	Member
Harry Flaherty	Member
Joan Scottie	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Dan Pike	Director, Wildlife Management
Rebecca Mike	Assistant Director, Wildlife Management
Ray Andrews	NWMB Fisheries Advisor
Mary Nashook	Interpreter
Achina Akisuk	Interpreter

Not Available:

Pauloosie Keyootak	Member (with cause)
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Guests and Other Participants:

Stephen Atkinson	RW&ED, Iqaluit
Joe Tigullaraq	RW&ED, Iqaluit
Gary Weber	DFO, Iqaluit
Lynn Siegersna	DFO, Iqaluit

1. Call to Order and Opening Preliminaries

The Chairperson Ben Kovic convened the Special Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday March 10 in the Parnaivik Boardroom in Iqaluit. He called on Joan Scottie to offer an opening prayer.

Ben then gave a brief overview of the agenda for the meeting. He noted that the main item was to examine the research proposals that had been submitted by agencies for consideration under the Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust, and to decide which proposals were going to be supported by the Board. In addition, a number of matters of a more routine nature needed to be dealt with.

2. Agenda

Members reviewed and accepted the agenda for this the 7th Special Meeting of the NWMB. **(Resolution 98-102)**

3. Consideration of Research Proposals to the NWRT for 1998/99

Before proceeding to a detailed review of individual proposals, a number of clarifications, suggestions and concerns were registered:

- Ben Kovic reminded the Members that the NWRT trustees, in session yesterday (March 09), had approved an allotment of \$750,000 for research by government agencies in 1998/99.
- Dan Pike referred the Members to his detailed evaluations of the individual proposals, conducted according to the same formats and criteria that the Board had adopted and that he had used on previous occasions. Dan acknowledged the important input from the recent (January 1998) NWMB Research Priorities Workshop in Arviat. He advised in summary that:
 - A total of 39 proposals had been received from agencies.
 - Two of the proposals were deemed not to qualify for consideration via the NWRT, and could be considered by the NWMB independently.
 - Seven of the proposals were ongoing, having commenced earlier.
 - The aggregate amount of the 37 proposals deemed eligible for consideration via the NWRT was \$1,338,300 for 1998/98. This included a commitment of \$191,200 for the seven ongoing projects.
- Ben Kovic noted that identification of a research priority by a community or a Region has not necessarily meant that it comes forward as a research proposal from a government agency. This is of concern, especially when a particular matter continues to be identified as a research priority from year to year but receives no agency attention. One such item is the continuing concern among users of terrestrial mammals about contaminants and diseases. Kevin McCormick noted that the NWMB/NWRT cannot address all aspects of wildlife research, but is responsible primarily to support research to assist in establishing allowable harvests. Government agencies continue to have their own independent research obligations and their own resources to address them.

- Multi-year projects and projects that are especially large pose particular problems for the administration of the NWRT fund. The Board considered but no decision about restricting funding for any one project to some percentage of the total funds being made available for the year. For multi-year projects it was agreed that such could/would be approved in principle for their duration, but:
 - For a maximum of three years without renewed justification, and
 - Subject to annual review of progress and budget.
- Ben Kovic suggested that it would be useful if proposals were accompanied by agency endorsement at a higher level than that of the scientific originator.
- Dan Pike noted that research proposals and progress and final reports from agencies mainly arrive at the NWMB office in English only.
- Gordon Koshinsky suggested that it would be useful and appropriate, prior to the next allocation of NWRT funds a year from now, to conduct an evaluation of the program's administration and results.

At this point the Board moved to its detailed examination of the 30 new research proposals from government agencies. In this examination the Board followed the ordering of items as set out by the Wildlife Director in his evaluation and preliminary ranking.

The Board decided to approve funding specifically for the seven continuing and eleven new research proposals by government agencies in the total amount of \$765,400 for 1998/99, with certain conditions and amendments pertaining. **(Resolution 98- 103)**

It was decided that in future the Board will not consider applications for NWRT funding except in exceptional circumstances unless:

- All necessary approvals and endorsements are in place,
- A communication plan is identified for transmitting the results,
- Any expected use of, and anticipated contribution to, traditional knowledge is identified, and
- The proponent has committed to a significant financial contribution.

4. Minutes: Review and Adoption

Jim Noble explained that the Minutes for Special Meeting No. 6, held in August 1997, were previously approved for distribution in order to obtain comment.

The Board now officially adopted these Minutes in the form in which they were originally presented. **(Resolution 98- 104)**

5. Financial and Administrative Business

5.A Financial Report

Jim Noble provided an overview of the NWMB financial situation to the end of last week (March 9). Commitments and receivables identified at the present time indicate that there will be a year-end cash balance of \$204,095.

5.B Financial Arrangements for 1998/99

Jim Noble advised that DIAND has confirmed an adjustment factor (FDDIPI) of 1.069 referable to the NWMB1998/99 budget. This is considerably greater than the factor that was applied in previous years (e.g. 1.029 last year). An incidental consideration is that this will have significant implications for the Board's system of automatic salary adjustments since these are now tied to the FDDIPI.

Jim Noble reported no satisfactory progress to date on the Board's efforts to establish a new funding agreement with DIAND. In fact, DIAND officials are now talking in terms of reverting to wording that pre-dates that in the 1997/98 agreement. It was decided to write to the DIAND Minister concerning the lack of apparent effort on the part of DIAND officials to work constructively with the NWMB on this matter. **(Resolution 98- 105)**

The Board decided to appoint the accounting firm MacKay-Landau as official auditors for the NWMB for the fiscal year 1998/99. **(Resolution 98- 106)**

6. Executive Committee's Report

Gordon Koshinsky advised that there were no developments to report to the Board on behalf of the Executive Committee.

7. Executive Director's Report

Jim Noble briefed the Board on a number of matters as follows:

- Alternative office accommodations: Besides maintaining the Board's present head office location, a number of other options have been identified as per instructions from the Board:
 - Purchase a particular house that is currently available in Iqaluit and convert it. Disadvantages include scarcity of parking space and limited possibilities for expansion.

- Joint venture on a new building with DRWED. The concept is that NWMB would build a building to accommodate both agencies, and lease space within it to DRWED. The Department perceives that the NWMB would be able to move faster than the Department could move in spear-heading such an initiative, and looks forward to amalgamating libraries and other common amenities. Specific disadvantages from the NWMB perspective might include “undesirable optics” in being so closely associated with one particular government agency.
- Commit to tenancy and probably to part ownership in a new building that would be built by Qikiqtaaluk Corporation.

Kevin McCormick and other Members expressed reservations about the NWMB taking on a role of landlord and/or real estate owner. Among other things, such a role would expose NWMB staff to another significant spectrum of administrative responsibilities. Most Members expressed preference for a concerted effort to renegotiate the present lease arrangement in the Parnaivik Building. Ben Kovic reminded Members that the building recently changed ownership, and the new owners (Qikiqtaaluk Corporation) have indicated a willingness to improve the relationship with the NWMB. Jim Noble suggested that the most improvement that could be expected in regard to the lease fee might be a reduction (annual basis) of two or three dollars per square foot. Gordon Koshinsky observed that if the Board’s present cost for office accommodation is that close to the best market rate, there would probably be little to gain from taking on the added responsibility of property ownership.

Jim Noble tabled a concept being promoted by Dan Pike, that the Board should at least consider moving its headquarters to a different community entirely. It was decided to defer further discussion on the matter to the next regular meeting of the Board.

On a number of other matters, Jim Noble reported as follows:

- Developing a new filing system for the Board: Rajean has been contracted to do this work.
- Developing a new mail-handling system: A contract will be let soon.
- Recruiting a new Director of Finance and Administration: Four candidates have been short-listed for interviews.
- Maternity leave for Isabel Simpson: Will commence about May 1, for six months duration. The position will be back-filled with a term appointment.
- Staff appraisals: Scheduled for completion prior to the May meeting of the Board.

8. Wildlife Director’s Report

Dan Pike reported on his attendance with Harry Flaherty at the recent meeting of the Polar Bear Technical Committee. Dan also noted that an individual has been contracted to organize the NWMB library and the stock database system. The long-term aim is to develop a common library catalogue and a comprehensive stock database in conjunction with the three government agencies participating in wildlife management, along with the Science Centre.

9. Fisheries Advisor's Report

Ray Andrews proposed that the Board conduct a workshop in late summer or autumn to focus on the commercial fishery (primarily turbot and shrimp) with a view to:

- Achieving a better internal familiarity and consensus with respect to the Board's mandate and aspirations in these matters, and
- Interacting with other pertinent agencies, including (perhaps) DFO, NTI, QWB, Cumberland Sound Fisheries, Makivik Corporation, and the incoming Nunavut government.

Gordon Koshinsky suggested that such a workshop would need a great deal of careful preparation. He proposed that it be conducted under a framework of Nunavut objectives for these fisheries, and that a set of such objectives should be drafted by the NWMB as background and motivation for the workshop.

Ray also focussed the particular attention of the Board on the very substantial recent development of the northwest Atlantic shrimp fishery.

10. Member's Reports and Concerns

10.1 Harry Flaherty

Harry referred to his participation in a recent workshop in Yellowknife pertaining to Peary caribou. The genetic distinctiveness of these animals came under some question. A briefing document is being developed by the workshop organizers.

10.2 Meeka Mike

Meeka suggested that the Board give consideration to its participation in the forthcoming (April 1999) celebrations pertaining to the establishment of Nunavut. Members agreed to devote attention to this matter at a later date.

11. Progress on Assignments

The need was reiterated for the NWMB to obtain more opinion and input from communities and Regions regarding the proposal from Coral Harbour to conduct and film a traditional polar bear hunt. It was suggested that Ben Kovic consider the option of seeking input via CBC Radio.

The continuing need was identified to develop documentation pertaining to the operating relationships between the NWMB and individual government agencies. Gordon Koshinsky acknowledged that his assigned completion of such a document pertaining to DFO was key to development of the other components of this treatment.

12. Presentations / Decisions Originating with Government Agencies

Due to the specialized nature of the meeting, there were no items for this ordinarily routine part of the agenda.

13. NWMB Internal Items: Presentations / Decisions

13.A Harvest Study: Update

Dan Pike advised that the newly-created Harvest Study Committee aims to meet in conjunction with the current meeting of the Board, in order to address a number of administrative and technical questions.

13.B Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study: Update

Dan Pike advised that Keith Hay's extensive period of illness has introduced a substantial delay into the reporting process for the Study. It is still anticipated that a draft of the final report will be completed by July. The funds that were committed to the project for 1998/99 will clearly not be sufficient in view of the delay that is now being experienced.

13.C Nunavut Marine Council: Update

The Board considered, and approved for signature and transmission by the NWMB Chairperson, a letter that had been drafted to the other IPGs who are lobbying on behalf of this matter.

13.D Developing Qualifications for Big-Game Hunting Guides: Update

Jim Noble advised that the contract pertaining to this matter is underway. A consortium comprising Glen Williams and Mark Stevenson have been retained to prepare a report with recommendations for the Board.

13.E Davis Strait Turbot Allocations

The Board debated the merits and content of a preemptive letter to the DFO Minister in advance of any initiative by the Minister pertaining to 1998 turbot allocations for Davis Strait. The consensus was that it would be worthwhile to remind the Minister of historical events; however much care was in order not to overstate the NWMB case nor to over-reach the technical recommendations.

13.F Davis Strait Shrimp Allocations

Ray Andrews reminded the Board of the recent initiative by the 6.5 shrimp licence holders based in the north to distance themselves from the other 10.5 licence holders by forming the Northern Coalition. Jim Noble noted that one of the members of the Coalition, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, has requested the NWMB to lobby the DFO Minister on behalf of the Coalition for priority access to northern shrimp on the basis of adjacency.

The Board decided that it would be appropriate to write to the DFO Minister to argue for priority access for Nunavut fishermen to any future increases in adjacent shrimp quotas, but to avoid the impression of lobbying on behalf of any specific individual enterprises.

13.G Walrus Sport Hunting Applications for 1998

Dan Pike brought two community applications for authorization to conduct walrus sport hunts to the attention of the Board:

- Hall Beach proposal, seeking authorization for ten walrus sport hunts.

Dan Pike reminded Members that the Board approved two walrus sport hunts for Hall Beach last year; however these hunts did not proceed because DFO was unable to provide oversight of the hunts as per a condition of NWMB approval. Walrus harvesting at Hall Beach is currently regulated on the basis of four per hunter on an annual basis, and allocation to sport hunting would be through

assignment. Members considered that it would be inappropriate for the Board to approve ten walrus sport hunts at Hall Beach without better information and planning, and unrealistic for the community to start with this volume of walrus sport hunting in the absence of any prior experience. The Board approved two sport hunts for walrus at Hall Beach for 1998, again on condition that the hunting be monitored by DFO. **(Resolution 98- 107)**

- Salluit proposal, seeking authorization for four walrus sport hunts.

Dan Pike stated that this was a re-submission of last year's proposal, which had been approved by the Board but not actioned by the community. He reminded Members that this matter could not be decided, at least not in the negative, without the participation of the Makivik Members. He also noted that other applications would certainly be forthcoming. The Board decided to consider this and other anticipated walrus sport hunting proposals as a package at the May regular meeting.

Dan Pike noted the unmet commitment by DFO to draft a management plan and a new regulatory framework to govern walrus sport hunting. Harry Flaherty expressed concern about the Board continuing to approve walrus sport hunts on an ad hoc basis, without benefit of stock information and in the absence of a walrus management plan.

13.H NWMB Training Policy

Jim Noble reminded Members that the Board needed to come to grips with the draft training policy that had been prepared for the Board by Corr Consulting Ltd. in early February. The matter was deferred to a later date, but in the meantime Members were encouraged to identify and communicate their own individual training needs and aspirations vis-à-vis their service with the Board.

14. Applications for NWMB Funding: Reviews and Decisions

14.A Requests for Research Funding

Dan Pike referred the Board to three proposals that were received that might be appropriate for NWMB research funding:

14.A.1 Sanikiluaq HTA: Winter Ecology of Common Eiders

The Board decided to approve funding in the amount of \$27,000 to the Sanikiluaq HTA to support their research on the winter ecology of eider ducks in the Belcher Islands area, with certain provisos pertaining to project performance. **(Resolution 98- 108)**

14.A.2 Turbot Fishery Planning: Workshop

The Board decided to approve funding in the amount of \$7,000 and also to take the initiative to organize a workshop to plan the future of the turbot fishery in NAFO Division 0A, as per a proposal for research funding submitted by DFO. **(Resolution 98- 109)**

14.A.3 South Baffin Caribou Project: Completion

The Board decided to approve funding in the amount of \$20,000 in 1998/99 to support consultations pertinent to completion of the South Baffin caribou study and management plan, as per a proposal for research funding submitted by DRWED. **(Resolution 98- 110)**

14.B Requests for Donations

Jim Noble referred the Board to the three requests for donations that were on the agenda for NWMB consideration.

14.B.1 Arctic College: Inuit Studies Program

Arctic College is requesting a donation to assist with the costs of a student presentation on *The Seal: An Integral Part of Our Culture* in Copenhagen.

It was noted that the Board donated \$1,000 to this Program last year, and the question arose whether it was appropriate to donate to the same program on an ongoing basis.

In the end, the Board decided to make a donation of \$2,500 in support of this project. **(Resolution 98- 111)**

14.B.2 Nunavut Sivuniksavut TFN Training Program: Student Trip

The Nunavut Sivuniksavut TFN Training Program is requesting a donation to assist with the costs of a student trip to northern Scandinavia. Their total requirement is \$24,000, of which they have already collected about half.

It was noted that the Board donated \$5,000 to this Program last year. Concern was expressed about the disproportionate number of donation requests originating out of Iqait.

In the end, the Board decided to make a donation of \$2,500 in support of this project. **(Resolution 98- 112)**

14.B.3 Nunavut Social Devmnt Council: Traditional Knowledge Workshop

The Nunavut Social Development Council is sponsoring a workshop on traditional knowledge in Igloolik at the end of March, and is seeking funding assistance.

It was noted that Rebecca Mike is slated to represent the NWMB at this workshop. Members were generally sympathetic to the concept, but concerned that the workshop seems too unfocussed with an excessively broad agenda.

In the end, the Board decided to make a donation of \$5,000 in support of this workshop. **(Resolution 98- 113)**

15. Meetings, Workshops and other Pertinent Events

15.A Reports and Briefings: Past Events

There were no briefing materials nor any specific presentations referable to this agenda item. Jim Noble reminded Members that references had been made to events attended by Members at other junctures in the present Meeting.

15.B Review and Participation: Upcoming Events

Jim Noble led the Board through the tabulation of forthcoming events as at March 13. The following decisions were reached with respect to attendance:

- Makivik Corporation Hunters/Trappers/Fishermens Association AGM, March 23-27: Ben to attend; also Dan or Harry
- DRWWED/NTI workshop on Business Development, March 20-23: Jim and/or Dan to attend
- DRWED workshop on Managing Development Activities on Caribou Calving and Post-Calving Grounds, March 31-April 2: Dan or Rebecca to attend

