

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES: CONFERENCE CALL No. 53

MONDAY, 30 October 2000

Participants:

Ben Kovic	Chairperson
Kevin McCormick	Member
Moses Koonoo	Member
Gordon Koshinsky	Member
Harry Flaherty	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Michelle Wheatley	Director of Wildlife Management
Gordon Tomlinson	Director of Finance and Administration
Michael d'Eça	Legal Advisor

Not Available:

David Alagalak	Member
Makabe Nartok	Member
Joan Scottie	Member
Meeka Mike	Member

1. Opening by Chairperson

Ben Kovic opened the Conference Call at 10:05 a.m. Iqaluit time. He thanked the Board Members and staff for making themselves available to participate.

2. Review/Approval of Agenda

The Board adopted (**Resolution 2000- 205**) the Agenda for the Conference Call, with one addition. Jim Noble requested that the Board consider a proposal brought forward by the Harvest Study Committee to purchase commemorative pocket knives for participants in the Study.

3. Funding Requests

3.A North Atlantic Responsible Fishing Conference, November 7- 9

Jim Noble briefed the Board on a request from John Foster (supported by Henry Copestake) of the North Atlantic Responsible Fishing Conference Secretariat for funding to assist Stevie Audlakhak of Qikiqtarjuaq to participate in the

forthcoming conference. Mr. Audlakhak is involved with the offshore fishing industry at Qikiqtarjuaq and should be an appropriate delegate. Ben Kovic noted that Mr. Audlakhak had attended similar conferences in the past. Gordon recommended that Mr. Audlakhak be provided with briefing material to reflect the views of the NWMB with respect to such matters as fishing with gillnets, and that he be requested to provide a report back to the NWMB. The Board approved funding for Mr. Audlakhak's travel costs to attend. **(Resolution 2000- 206)**

3.B Fur Institute of Canada Information Session on Humane Trapping

Jim Noble referred Members to the briefing note and the letter from the Fur Institute of Canada (FIC) requesting funding assistance to conduct an information session with Nunavut trappers regarding the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS, or Agreement). FIC has \$40,000 allocated for this purpose and is seeking funding partners. Jim suggested that this session should have been planned around the recently conducted Wildlife Symposium. Jim recommended that the proponents plan to meet with the RWOs during the next meeting of the Wildlife Management Advisory Committee.

Ben Kovic noted that ITC has been the lead agency in this matter. The view of Bob Stevenson (who is a Métis, and a First Nations advocate) is that a session such as the one proposed by FIC would not be particularly productive in, nor relevant to, Nunavut. Kevin McCormick proposed that the Board find out what the issues are before agreeing to provide any funding for such a session.

Michael d'Eça noted that the NLCA requires that NTI be involved in any discussions leading to an international agreement pertinent to the NSA. Michael was not aware if NTI participated in developing the AIHTS or whether the Agreement was achieved with Nunavut concurrence. He did note that any restrictions on trapping would be non-quota limitations and thus under the purview of the NWMB. Harry Flaherty advised that he attended meetings leading to this Agreement on behalf of RWED. Harry also noted that Nunavut is effectively exempted from the trapping standards in the Agreement because foxes are not included in the standard.

The Board concluded that NWMB staff should request FIC to identify the issues that they anticipate such a session to address with respect to Nunavut, and also suggest to them that any such session be conducted in conjunction with another meeting or workshop (e.g. NTI, RWOs) in order to reduce costs. Michael offered to contact ITC to obtain their version of the Inuit perspective on both the Fur Institute and the AIHTS.

3.C Support for the Bathurst Caribou Management Planning Committee

Jim Noble reviewed his briefing note with the Members. The Committee is asking the NWMB for funding assistance in executing the Planning Agreement.

Michelle Wheatley had requested a more detailed budget from the Planning Committee, but received only a pro forma document in response. It was noted that Makabe Nartok attended a meeting of the Planning Committee in July.

Kevin McCormick recommended that any input from the NWMB should be pro-rated with reference to the marginal nature of Nunavut interests in this caribou herd. Michael d'Eça pointed out that the Planning Agreement specifies that Governments (DIAND, DSD, DRWED) are to provide the funding for the planning process. The NWMB is listed as responsible only for its own participation. Gordon Koshinsky asked if the Planning Agreement was signed by the NWMB. Michelle advised that all of the parties, including the NWMB, had signed on.

Based on advice from its staff, the Board decided to communicate with the Planning Committee in respect to their funding request:

- Pointing out the relevant provisions of the Planning Agreement;
- Asking for a full rationalization of the budget in this context;
- Indicating that NWMB Study Funding might be made available, if requested, especially for the acquisition of traditional knowledge.

3.D Marine Mammals of Nunavut: Book Project

Jim Noble reminded the Members that, following the successful publication of the book on *Birds of Nunavut*, the NWMB began planning to publish a similar book on marine mammals. The recent closure of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Advisory Board yielded \$20,000 that was set aside for this purpose. Qikiqtani School Services also has an interest in this project. NTI has also been approached to participate. The NWMB has budgeted \$40,000 for this project in the current fiscal year. Jim requested that the Board specifically approve expenditure of these funds in anticipation that the project can be completed prior to year-end.

Gordon Koshinsky asked about the status of other book-publication projects that the NWMB has underway. Jim replied that DFO efforts (with NWMB financial assistance) to develop a book on marine fishes, along with a summary publication on tracking beluga and narwhal by satellite telemetry, both seemed to be on track. The hope is that the NWMB will be able to develop a set of books on Nunavut wildlife for use in the schools. The Board authorized expenditure of \$40,000 for publication of the book on marine mammals. **(Resolution 2000- 207)**

4. Financial Variance Report as at 31 October 2000

Gordon Tomlinson reviewed the expenditure report to the end of October, explaining the variances on a line-by-line basis. A year-end positive balance of \$192,715 is currently projected on the basis of the original budget. Possible extra costs for meetings-not-yet-scheduled, computer-related acquisitions, and completion of website development might end up reducing this amount. Jim

suggested that some of the extra funding in the line item for Board Meetings could be committed to conducting a 10-Year planning workshop later in the winter. However the improbability of incurring expenditures for public hearings (still budgeted at about \$100,000) is off-setting to these contingencies.

Michael d'Eça told the Board that he had discussed the matter of budgeting for public hearings with Aideen Nabigon of DIAND. They reached an understanding that, pursuant to the terms of the new funding agreement between DIAND and the Board, it will likely be acceptable for the NWMB to retain for use in subsequent years any funds for public hearings that are not utilized in the year in which they are budgeted. Michael suggested that it would nonetheless be prudent for the Board to revise its 2000/01 Workplan, making it clear that any unexpended funds that were budgeted for public hearings will be retained by the NWMB at the end of the fiscal year. Michael also pointed out that the possibility exists that DIAND in the end may not accept changes to the Workplan.

The Board approved the variance report as presented, and further stipulated that alterations to the NWMB funding profile for 2000/01 be kept to a minimum as a basis for apprising DIAND. **(Resolution 2000- 208)**

5. Re-print of Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study Report

Jim Noble advised that the Board originally printed 750 copies of the Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study Final Report. The Board is receiving many calls for copies of this report. The current goal is to make this report available on the NWMB website; however this is not imminent. Jim suggested that the Board consider re-printing the report. Significant cost savings could be realized by rendering the maps in CD format for inclusion in the report.

The Board approved re-printing 1000 copies of the IBKS report, some with maps and some with CDs. **(Resolution 2000- 209)**

6. Closure of Narwhal Hunt at Broughton Island (Qikiqtarjuaq)

Jim Noble reminded the Members that Qikiqtarjuaq is one of the communities participating in the new community-based management system for narwhal. When the narwhal harvest numbers reached 118 landed, 40 struck/lost, and 80 wounded/escaped this fall, DFO sent in an Officer to meet with the HTO to discuss the situation. DFO decided to close the hunt for the balance of the year. There have been several calls to the NWMB office from members of the Qikiqtarjuaq HTO complaining about the DFO action. Ben Kovic noted that Jayco Alooos, a member of the Narwhal Working Group, had called to suggest that DFO was not honouring its commitment to the 3-year trial for the new management system.

Michael d'Eça advised that Brian Wong of DFO had called to discuss procedures under these circumstances. Michael's view was and is that DFO could only make such a decision on an interim basis pursuant to section 5.3.24 of the NLCA. The decision would have to be by reference to urgent and unusual circumstances requiring an immediate modification in harvesting activities. Michael suggested that it is reasonable to expect the Minister to formally notify the NWMB of his action and to provide precise reasons for his "*reasonable interim decision*". The NLCA also obliges the NWMB to "conduct a full review as soon as practicable thereafter".

Jim advised that official notification of the DFO Minister's action has not yet been received. Nonetheless the Board is obviously aware of the decision, although not of the precise reasons behind it. Based on advice from Michael the Board decided that, if official notification is not received soon, it will be necessary to contact the DFO Area Director and/or the DFO Minister to request this notification, and more particularly the reasons for the Minister's decision. This is needed to enable the Board to take its next steps as required by the NLCA. It remains for the Board to decide what will constitute a full review. Since the fishery is closed with no practical possibility of being re-opened this year, there is some leeway in terms of time for pursuing these next steps.

7. Possible Alternative Approach to Narwhal Management

Michelle Wheatley tabled a discussion paper on an alternative approach to narwhal management. The Board was asked to review this document, for probable discussion at the next Board meeting in Rankin Inlet.

8. Muskox Hunting Area N/MX/21 (Keewatin): Request to Change Boundary

Michelle Wheatley advised that communities in the Keewatin have for a number of years been requesting a change to the boundaries of Muskox Hunting Area N/MX/21. Local knowledge and recent aerial surveys indicate that muskox are moving closer to those settlements that utilize muskoxen in this zone. The request is to extend the zone south and east to allow easier access to the herd. All the pertinent co-management agencies are in support of this proposal.

Michelle recommended that the requested boundary revision be implemented on a one-season trial basis (for the period October 2000 through March 2001) and that hunters be required to provide reports on muskoxen sited along with the sex, age, condition and location of all muskox harvested, for each hunting trip. Michael d'Eça asked if this revision will have implications for the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary. Ben Kovic advised that this zone is not near the Sanctuary. However he did note that it will move the hunting zone closer to the outfitting areas and suggested that this could lead to some complications.

The Board decided **(Resolution 2000- 210)** to approve a one-year trial extension of the boundaries for Muskox Hunting Area N/MX/21 as proposed, with hunters to provide information on muskoxen seen and harvested in the course of their hunting trips.

9. Turbot Litigation: Update

Michael d'Eça advised that NTI lost in their most recent bid to obtain a favourable ruling from the Federal Court of Appeal in the matter of turbot allocations in Davis Strait. NTI now plans to ask the Supreme Court of Canada to hear the case. It is important to recognize that asking the Supreme Court to hear a case does not mean that they will necessarily do so.

Gordon Koshinsky asked if the NWMB is automatically committed to assisting NTI, financially or otherwise, in this next round. Michael advised that he was not aware of any formal agreement between NTI and the NWMB on this matter. He found it surprising that NTI did not approach the NWMB for both its views and its support prior to publicly announcing its decision to proceed to the Supreme Court. The question of support remains for the NWMB to decide. Jim Noble noted that up to this point there has been an informal understanding that the NWMB is supportive of NTI's actions in this matter, and it seems likely that NTI will continue to expect the assistance of the NWMB in whatever form.

Michael noted that NTI's request for permission to proceed should be relatively straightforward and inexpensive. Only if the Supreme Court agrees to deal with the matter will a full hearing take place. Even then, effort and cost are not likely to be radically different than those incurred by the reference to the Federal Court of Appeal. The case to be made will undoubtedly be similar to the case that was made previously. Gordon Koshinsky recommended that NTI be asked to justify their unilateral decision to go to the Supreme Court, and to identify what assistance they expect from the NWMB.

10. Interpreter/Translator Position

Jim Noble directed the attention of the Members to a proposal from Rebecca Mike for the provision of translation/interpretation services to the NWMB. The Board's current translator, Evie Amagoalik, was offered another position but has decided to stay with the NWMB as Office Manager. Jim asked Rebecca if she would be interested to move to the position of Interpreter/Translator. This proposal is a counter-offer from Rebecca.

The Board concurred that it would be advantageous to try to retain Rebecca under some arrangement to provide translation/interpretation services to the NWMB. The Board reviewed the three options outlined by Rebecca and decided **(Resolution 2000- 211)** to accept Option 1, subject to the development of an

appropriate contract. Gordon Koshinsky urged that the contract make specific reference to providing simultaneous translation services at Board meetings.

11. Harvest Study: Tokens of Appreciation

Harry Flaherty, as Chairperson of the Harvest Study Committee, explained that the Committee is recommending that participants in the Study be given a token of appreciation for their efforts. The Committee assessed a number of options and decided that commemorative pocket knives would be appropriate and well received. Jim Noble advised that a quote has been obtained to provide 5700 such knives to the NWMB at a cost of \$22,444.

The Board approved the expenditure of \$22,444 for the purchase of 5700 commemorative pocket knives for distribution to participants in the Harvest Study as tokens of appreciation. **(Resolution 2000- 212)**

12. Adjournment

Ben thanked everyone who participated. He closed the Conference Call at noon, Iqaluit time.

Minutes Approved by: _____
Chairperson Date

RESOLUTIONS: CONFERENCE CALL 53

Resolution 2000- 205: Resolved that the NWMB approve the agenda for Conference Call No. 53, with the addition of one item: purchasing and distributing commemorative pocket knives for participants in the Harvest Study.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty
Carried

Seconded by: Kevin McCormick
Date: 30 October 2000

Resolution 2000- 206: Resolved that the NWMB approve airfare and meal costs for Mr. Stevie Audlakhak of Qikiqtarjuaq to attend the North Atlantic Responsible Fishing Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland on November 7-9; this with the understanding that Mr. Audlakhak take with him briefing materials to be provided by the NWMB, and that he give the NWMB a report on the conference upon his return.

Moved by: Harry Flaherty
Carried

Seconded by: Moses Koonoo
Date: 30 October 2000

Resolution 2000- 207: Resolved that the NWMB approve the commitment of \$40,000 as budgeted for the production of a book on Marine Mammals of Nunavut; this book to be produced in conjunction with Qikiqtani School Services prior to the end of the current fiscal year.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick
Carried

Seconded by: Gordon Koshinsky
Date: 30 October 2000

Resolution 2000- 208: Resolved that the NWMB accept the Financial Variance Report as at 31 October 2000 as presented, with the further aim of rationalizing, and to the extent reasonably possible of maintaining, the current budget unamended for the fourth quarter and through the balance of the fiscal year.

Moved by:
Carried

Seconded by:
Date: 30 October 2000

Resolution 2000- 209: Resolved that the NWMB approve the expenditure of \$17,760 to re-print 1000 copies of the Inuit Bowhead Knowledge Study, some with hard-copy maps and some with maps in CD-ROM format.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick
Carried

Seconded by: Harry Flaherty
Date: 30 October 2000

Resolution 2000- 210: Resolved that the NWMB convey to the Minister of DSD the NWMB decision that:

- The boundaries of Muskox Management Area N/MX/21 be extended to the new locations as per the legal description of the boundaries for the trial period from 1 October 2000 through 31 March 2001 (the current open season), and that the community quotas remain unchanged;
- That as a condition of the boundary change, hunters be required to report the sex, age, location and condition of all muskoxen harvested along with the number of muskoxen sighted on each hunting trip; and
- That a review of the harvest for 2000/01 be completed and submitted with any request to render this boundary change permanent.

Moved by: Gordon Koshinsky
Carried

Seconded by: Harry Flaherty
Date: 30 October 2000

Resolution 2000- 211: Resolved that the NWMB accept Option 1 of Rebecca Mike's proposal to provide translation/interpreting services to the NWMB, subject to development of an appropriate contract.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick
Carried

Seconded by: Moses Koonoo
Date: 30 October 2000

Resolution 2000- 212: Resolved that the NWMB approve acquisition of 5700 commemorative pocket knives a total cost of \$22,444 from the Harvest Study budget, to be distributed as tokens of appreciation to participants in the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study.

Moved by: Gordon Koshinsky
Carried

Seconded by: Moses Koonoo
Date: 30 October 2000