

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES: CONFERENCE CALL No. 56

THURSDAY, 05 APRIL 2001

Participants:

Ben Kovic	Chairperson
Makabe Nartok	Member
Gordon Koshinsky	Member
Moses Koonoo	Member
Joan Scottie	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Michelle Wheatley	Director of Wildlife Management
Gordon Tomlinson	Director of Finance and Administration

Not Available:

Kevin McCormick	Member
Meeka Mike	Member
David Alagalak	Member
Okalik Eegeesiak	Member

1. Opening of Conference Call

Ben Kovic opened the Conference Call at 18:40 p.m. Iqaluit time. He noted that technical problems with the telephone system in the Kivalliq region this afternoon prevented David Alagalak from participating.

2. Agenda for Conference Call

The Board approved (**Resolution 2001- 033**) the Agenda for the Conference Call that had been circulated earlier by the Executive Director. Ben Kovic suggested that it would probably not be possible to address all of the items on the agenda in the time that was available for the Conference Call.

3. Office Space for the NWMB in Iqaluit

Gordon Tomlinson reminded the Board that the lease with the Kakivak – Qikiqtaaluk Joint Venture for office space currently occupied by the NWMB in the Parnaivik Building expired at the end of March. Continuing arrangements to occupy this space are now month-to-month. Gordon referred to the briefing note that he had prepared and drew attention to the pros and cons of the two options that have been identified, namely:

- To seek a renewal of the lease to remain in the Parnaivik Building, or
- To conclude a lease arrangement for space in the new Igluvut Building.

Gordon reviewed the various factors that would seem to indicate that the Board will find itself increasingly short of office space unless some provision is made for expansion. He referred to the current offer from Qikiqtaaluk Corporation to provide space in the Igluvut Building, and recommended that the NWMB seek more favourable terms by way of a counter-offer. Specifically, Gordon proposed that the NWMB seek:

- An initial 2-year lease on 3,650 square feet in the Igluvut Building at \$29 per square foot, to be followed by three 5-year renewal options at \$35 per square foot; and
- That obligations for leasehold improvements begin accruing to the NWMB only upon lease renewal after the initial two years; and
- That leasehold improvements, at a total cost of \$170,000, be reimbursed by the NWMB over a 5-year period.

Gordon Koshinsky expressed unease about including the possibility for continuation of the Harvest Study in any rationale for expanded quarters for the NWMB. In his view, continuation of the Harvest Study was a very uncertain prospect and, even if it occurred, would not be any more (and probably less) of an NWMB initiative than it would be the initiative of several other agencies. In that case, the work could (and probably should) be housed elsewhere. Gordon Tomlinson replied that there would be provision in any new lease for expanded facilities to enable sub-letting, and he anticipated that the NWMB would have no difficulty finding suitable candidate tenants in the event that it found itself with extra office space.

Gordon Koshinsky asked if the option of negotiating a lease for more space in the Parnaivik Building had been explored. Gordon Tomlinson replied that suitable space for expansion was not really available and, even if it were, leasing it would incur incremental lease and leasehold improvement costs so that the savings would not be substantial.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2001- 034**) to approve the negotiating position recommended by the Director of Finance and Administration, with a view to obtaining the best and most flexible possible terms from Kakivak Development Corporation for moving the NWMB offices into the new Igluvut Building.

4. Cost-of-Living Adjustment for NWMB Employees

Gordon Tomlinson reminded the Board of its policy to make annual cost-of-living adjustments to employee salaries by reference to the Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the preceding year. The Canadian CPI for the year 2000 is 2.7%, which would be the adjustment factor for application to all categories and steps in the NWMB pay grid effective April 1. Gordon also noted that the NWMB did not

consistently base its cost-of-living adjustments on the Canadian CPI prior to adoption of the current policy, and that some of the previous adjustments were made at a lower rate. He proposed that a one-time retroactive adjustment be made in order to compensate for what could be interpreted as a cumulative shortfall in cost-of-living adjustments since the inception of the NWMB. He indicated that the amount in question was 2%.

Gordon Koshinsky stated that he did not favour attempting to make retroactive adjustments to address this kind of issue, at least not in an isolated context. He suggested that previous cost-of-living adjustments were made through conscious deliberations rather than arbitrarily, and in his view could not be automatically regarded as errors. If so, there might well also be other “errors” in either direction, in how the NWMB compensates its employees. In Gordon’s view, if a retroactive adjustment of the type here proposed were to be seriously contemplated, it should only be done in the context of a comprehensive review of all aspects of employee compensation and benefits.

The Board decided **(Resolution 2001- 035)** to approve a cost-of-living adjustment to the NWMB salary grid in the amount of 2.7% effective April 1 for the 2001/02 fiscal year, this in accordance with the Canadian CPI for 2000.

5. Appointment of NWMB Auditor for 2000/01

Jim Noble stated that it was time once again to appoint an auditor to audit the accounts of the NWMB for the fiscal year just completed. Jim reminded the Members that the NWMB has been using the local accounting firm, MacKay Landau. This firm has given good service in the past and was recently appointed to audit the accounts of the Nunavut Wildlife Research Trust. There had been some discussion about tendering for this service, but cost savings would likely be minimal at best, and not worth the disruption at this stage of the NWMB’s development and operations.

The Board decided **(Resolution 2001- 036)** to appoint the local firm MacKay Landau, chartered accountants, to audit the accounts of the NWMB for 2000/01.

6. Ensuring Completion of Workplan and Budget for Next Contract Period

Jim Noble reminded the Members that the Implementation Panel granted the request made jointly by the four IPGs for an extension to June 18 for submission of planning documentation with respect to the next (2003 – 2013) contract period. The Board’s Legal Advisor will be working with NWMB staff to draft this documentation based on the report of the consultants stemming from the recent planning workshop and other inputs. It remains to determine how the Board will examine, criticize, and ultimately approve these workplan and budget proposals.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2001- 037**) to conduct a workshop session the weekend of June 2-3 in Yellowknife (enroute to the Board's regular meeting in Kugluktuk the following week) to make concerted input into this planning process.

7. Requests for Funding

Jim Noble referred the Members to five funding requests recently received:

- From the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, for a contribution of \$300 to purchase an NWMB nameplate for inclusion in a plaque being created to commemorate the life and spirit of Louis Pilakapsi.
- From the Girl Guides of Iqaluit, for a donation (any amount) to support attendance at a camp meeting at Rankin Inlet.
- From Nunavut Sivuniksavut for a donation (any amount) to support a cross-cultural trip to Japan.
- From the Aiviit HTO at Coral Harbour, for a contribution of \$13,750 toward the cost of building and placing nine cabins for the use of residents and visitors while out on the land in various locations on Southampton Island.
- From the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, for a contribution of \$3,473 toward the purchase of uninterrupted power supply units for 11 HTO and RWO computers in the Baffin region that are not yet so protected.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2001- 038**) to set aside \$5,000 of its advertising budget to support initiatives of a civic orientation that would enhance the profile of the NWMB in the Nunavut community. From this amount, the Board decided:

- To allot \$300 to the Louis Pilakapsi commemorative initiative;
- To allot \$100 to the Iqaluit Girl Guides camp meeting at Rankin Inlet;
- To allot \$2000 to Nunavut Sivuniksavut for their student trip to Japan.

At the same time and as part of the same Resolution, the Board decided:

- Not to support the Aiviit HTO request for funding to assist with deploying cabins, albeit recognising that this was a worthwhile initiative; and
- To work with QWB and others to develop a formula for (hopefully) multi-agency funding to ensure that all HTO and RWO computers in the NSA have effective protection from power failures and surges.

8. Request for Approval to Sport-Hunt Two Additional Walrus: Igloolik

Michelle Wheatley reminded the Board of its earlier approval of 12 walrus sport hunts for the Igloolik HTO for the 2001 season. The HTO has now returned with a late request for approval for two additional walrus sport hunts. Igloolik has been the most successful and the most consistent community to participate in walrus sport hunting activity since the start of this initiative in the NSA.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2001- 039**) to approve two additional walrus sport hunts for the Igloolik HTO for the 2001 season (bringing the total approved to 14), subject to the same conditions established for the initial approval. The

HTO will be asked to ensure that in future years all its requests are brought forward at the time of the annual application.

9. Request for Extension of Approval to Harvest Sea Urchins

Michelle Wheatley reminded the Board of its earlier one-year approval of the request from Don Laroche of Canadian Sea Urchin Harvesting Ltd. for an experimental licence to harvest up to 50,000 kg of sea urchins (or 5,000 kg of sea urchin eggs) from waters along the west coast of Hudson Bay. The proponent has now returned with a request that this approval be extended to a period of five years in order to facilitate financing and marketing aspects of the development of this fishery. DFO officials have advised that their main concern with this request is the uncertainty about the size and productivity of the stock. They suggest that if the request is granted, the quota in the ensuing years be made conditional on ongoing assessment of the stock while the fishery proceeds.

Gordon Koshinsky expressed concern about the lack of indication in any of the material seen to date of any intention on the part of the proponent to consider any equity position for Nunavut interests in this venture. Gordon expressed the hope that the Nunavut Government was fully aware of the initiative and was weighing the various economic development opportunities that it might present.

The Board decided (**Resolution 2001- 040**) to approve extension to a period of five years of the experimental licence in favour of Canadian Sea Urchin Harvesting Ltd. to harvest sea urchins (or sea urchin eggs) in western Hudson Bay. This approval is subject to all the conditions enunciated in connection with the original approval, with the added proviso that quotas will be confirmed annually based on input from DFO stemming from their analysis of the catch.

10. Adjournment

Ben Kovic advised that the time that had been allotted for the Conference Call had expired. There had not been opportunity to consider two of the Agenda items:

- The aspirations expressed by Arctic Bay and Kugaaruk to participate in the community-based management system for narwhal in 2001; and
- The experimental licence applications pertaining to Greenland cod and Arctic charr.

The Board agreed to defer these items to a subsequent Conference Call or Board Meeting. Ben closed the Conference Call at 19:45 p.m. Iqaluit time.

Minutes Approved by: _____
Chairperson Date

RESOLUTIONS: CONFERENCE CALL 56

Resolution 2001- 033: Resolved that the NWMB adopt the agenda for Conference Call No. 56, as presented.

Moved by Gordon Koshinsky
Carried

Seconded by Makabe Nartok
Date: 05 April 2001

Resolution 2001- 034: Resolved that the NWMB seek to lease office space in the new Igluvut Building and endorse the negotiating position recommended by the Director of Finance and Administration, with a view to obtaining the best and most flexible possible terms from Kakivak Development Corporation.

Moved by Joan Scottie
Carried

Seconded by Makabe Nartok
Date: 05 April 2001

Resolution 2001- 035: Resolved that the NWMB approve a cost-of-living adjustment to the NWMB salary grid in the amount of 2.7% effective April 1 for the 2001/02 fiscal year, this in accordance with the Canadian CPI for 2000.

Moved by Gordon Koshinsky
Carried

Seconded by Moses Koonoo
Date: 05 April 2001

Resolution 2001- 036: Resolved that the NWMB appoint the firm MacKay Landau, chartered accountants, to audit the accounts of the NWMB for 2000/01.

Moved by Gordon Koshinsky
Carried

Seconded by Joan Scottie
Date: 05 April 2001

Resolution 2001- 037: Resolved that the NWMB conduct a workshop session in Yellowknife the weekend of June 2-3 in (enroute to the Board's regular meeting in Kugluktuk the following week) to make input into the process of completing the Board's workplan and budget proposals for the next contract period.

Moved by Joan Scottie
Carried

Seconded by Makabe Nartok
Date: 05 April 2001

Resolution 2001- 038: Resolved that the NWMB set aside \$5,000 of its 2001/02 advertising budget to support initiatives of a civic nature that would enhance the profile of the NWMB in the Nunavut community. From this amount:

- To allot \$300 to the Louis Pilakapsi commemorative initiative;
- To allot \$100 to the Iqaluit Girl Guides camp meeting at Rankin Inlet;
- To allot \$2000 to Nunavut Sivuniksavut for their student trip to Japan;

And at the same time, the Board resolved:

- Not to support the Aiviit HTO request for funding to assist with deploying cabins, albeit recognising this to be a worthwhile initiative; and
- To work with QWB and other interested parties to develop a multi-agency funding arrangement to ensure that all HTO and RWO computers in the NSA have effective protection from power failures and surges.

Moved by Makabe Nartok
Carried

Seconded by Moses Koonoo
Date: 05 April 2001

Resolution 2001- 039: Resolved that the NWMB approve two additional walrus sport hunts for the Igloolik HTO for the 2001 season (bringing the total walrus sport hunts approved for Igloolik for 2001 to 14), with this additional approval subject to the same conditions established for the initial approval. The HTO is to be asked to ensure that in future years all its requests are coordinated in their annual application.

Moved by Gordon Koshinsky
Carried

Seconded by Moses Koonoo
Date: 05 April 2001

Resolution 2001- 040: Resolved that the NWMB approve extending to a period of five years the experimental licence in favour of Canadian Sea Urchin Harvesting Ltd. to harvest sea urchins (or sea urchin eggs) in western Hudson Bay. Approval of this extension is subject to all the conditions enunciated in connection with the original approval, with the added proviso that quotas will be confirmed annually based on input from DFO stemming from their analysis of the ongoing catch.

Moved by Gordon Koshinsky
Carried

Seconded by Joan Scottie
Date: 05 April 2001
