

# NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

## MINUTES: CONFERENCE CALL No. 32

THURSDAY, 29 MAY 1997

### Participants:

Ben Kovic	Chairperson
David Aglukark	Member
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Gordon Koshinsky	Member
Kevin McCormick	Member
Malachi Arreak	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Dan Pike	Director of Wildlife Management
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter

### Not Available:

David Igutsaq	Member (with cause)
Meeka Mike	Member (with cause)
Harry Flaherty	Member (with cause)

### 1. Call to Order

The Chairperson, Ben Kovic, convened the Conference Call at 3:00 p.m.

### 2. Agenda

Except for the identification of three additional items for consideration under "Other Business", the agenda was accepted as presented.

### 3. NWMB-Funded Research Proposals

Dan Pike reviewed the briefing note he had prepared for the Board. He advised that he had used the same rating format as he used earlier to rate the NWRT applications. He reminded Members that the Board had approved an annual budget of \$200,000 for NWMB-funded research, and had committed \$12,000 to date.

Gordon Koshinsky noted a lack of funding by the applicants in most of the proposals and suggested that it might be appropriate for the Board to require some minimal level of applicant funding in ordinary circumstances.

### **3.A Body Condition of NE Mainland Caribou: Keewatin Wildlife Federation**

Dan explained that this proposal was for a two-year cooperative study, with a request for \$35,000 from the Board for the current year. Neither DRWED nor KWF identified this item at the Research Priorities Workshop, and DRWED was not committing any funding other than salary dollars for staff assistance. Dan suggested that the traditional knowledge portion of the study would be the most beneficial. Jim Noble noted that there have been numerous attempts in the past to study disease and parasites in Arctic wildlife. The field samples are usually quite easily obtained but the tendency has been to defer the analyses so that the laboratory work is often never completed or reported. David Aglukark indicated that the application is supported by all of the HTOs in the Keewatin Region, and that he would support the project on that basis.

The Board decided to ask the proponent to prepare a new proposal with more emphasis on the collection of traditional knowledge and with a greater contribution from DRWED in respect to funding of staff travel and accommodations. (**Resolution 98- 004**)

### **3.B Benthic Survey near Broughton Island: Nativak HTO**

Dan noted that benthic marine species had not been identified as a research priority for the Baffin Region. The proposal did incorporate an innovative research methodology, and the projected costs were relatively low. Malachi Arreak indicated his support for the project, and referred to the high level of community participation. The Board approved funding. (**Resolution 98- 005**)

### **3.C Southampton Island Caribou Winter Range Study: Aiviit HTA**

Dan suggested that the project warranted the Board's support. David Aglukark asked if this was a duplication of a project that had already been approved by the NWMB. Dan replied that this project was separate. Gordon Koshinsky noted that there was no provision in the proposal to study forage, and that this would surely need to be integral to any meaningful study of caribou range. The Board approved the project with the condition that a forage study component be added. (**Resolution 98- 006**)

### **3.D High-Arctic Inuit Knowledge Project: Iviq HTA**

Dan advised that funding from the other participating agencies had not been confirmed. Gordon Koshinsky noted that the proposal contained some very broad and ambitious objectives, such as “to develop a protocol for the documentation, use and application of Inuit ecological knowledge...”, which were probably not realistic for an applied project of this nature. He also questioned whether certain components of the proposal, such as “video documentation of polar bears in their natural habitat”, would make any worthwhile new contribution. Kevin McCormick urged that the Board not be in any hurry to fund this project without a great deal more clarification and debate. Dan suggested that the Iviq HTA be requested to provide a more detailed research methodology, make provision to include people from other communities having an interest in the research area, and show evidence of approved funding from the other participating agencies. The Board agreed with this approach.

### **3.E Research on Kelp: Kivalliq Land and Sea Resources**

Dan noted that kelp had not been identified as a high-priority item for research. Members questioned why additional funding was requested, when previous studies had already confirmed that the resource was available and a quota of 75 MT had been established. Marketing was seen as more of a bottleneck than further studies of the resource base. The Board did not approve funding for the project. **(Resolution 98- 007)**

### **3.F Test Fishery at Repulse Bay: Lewis Voisey**

Dan noted that the proposal entailed high costs for a relatively low-priority item. Malachi Arreak referred to the Broughton Island proposal (item 3.B above) as a more appropriate model for this kind of study. The Board decided not to fund the project. **(Resolution 98- 008)**

## **4. Review of Funding Request to do a Caribou Survey: Coral Harbour HTA**

Dan Pike reviewed his briefing note with the Members. Gordon Koshinsky suggested that it would be appropriate for the Aiviit HTA to advise the NWMB what they, in conjunction with RWED, learned from the land-based survey. The Board agreed that some contribution be made towards this project upon receipt of a letter from Aiviit explaining what knowledge they gained from this survey and how it had helped them decide whether to proceed with the commercial harvest. Gordon

Koshinsky agreed to draft a letter asking the HTA for this information. (**Resolution 98- 009**)

**5. Job Description for New Position: Assistant Director of Wildlife**

Jim Noble requested that the Members review the draft job description for the new Assistant Director of Wildlife position, and to submit comments or concerns.

**6. Other Business**

**6.A Polar Bear Management Meeting: Holman Island**

Jim Noble advised that the Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers Association was requesting financial assistance to attend a workshop hosted by the Inuvialuit Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC). The purpose of the workshop is to review implementation of the current polar bear management agreements for the shared polar bear populations. Members questioned why RWED was not assisting with the costs of this workshop. Jim Noble agreed to investigate the arrangements for the workshop and to consult with the Board prior to making any contribution to the KHTA.

**6.B Office Renovations**

Ben Kovic advised that renovations are about to commence at the Iqaluit office. He asked if the Members would be in agreement with closing the office during peak construction times, to permit staff to avoid noise, dust and paint fumes. The Board agreed that special leave arrangements for staff would be at the discretion of the Executive Director.

**6.C Bowhead Hunt Planning for 1997-1998**

Gordon Koshinsky requested an update on the status of the 1997 or 1998 bowhead hunt. Joannie Ikkidluak advised that QWB decided that there was not enough time to arrange the hunt this year, and that it would be deferred to 1998.

**7. Adjournment**

The Conference Call adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

**Minutes Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chairperson** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date**



### **Resolution 98- 007**

Resolved that the NWMB not approve the research funding request from Kivalliq Land and Sea Resources for a *Kelp Research Project*.

Moved by: Kevin McCormick      Seconded by: Gordon Koshinsky  
Carried                              Date: 29 May 1997

### **Resolution 98- 008**

Resolved that the NWMB not approve the research funding request from Mr. Lewis Voisey for a *Test Fishery Project: Repulse Bay*.

Moved by: Joannie Ikkidluak      Seconded by: Kevin McCormick  
Carried                              Date: 29 May 1997

### **Resolution 98- 009**

Resolved that the NWMB formally advise the Aiviit HTA that the NWMB is giving favourable consideration to payment of a portion of their 1996 land-based caribou survey costs, pending confirmation by the HTA to the NWMB:

- That the HTA is satisfied that the two survey methodologies (aerial and land-based) produced approximately equal results.
- That these result (both sets) convinced the HTA that there were sufficient caribou to enable the 1997 commercial harvest to proceed.
- That the HTA is prepared to work with DRWED in the design, execution, and interpretation of future caribou population surveys, and in the development of a Southampton caribou management plan.

Moved by: Gordon Koshinsky      Seconded by: Kevin McCormick  
Carried                              Date: 29 May 1997