

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES: CONFERENCE CALL No. 4

THURSDAY, 7 APRIL 1994

Participants:

Ben Kovic	Interim Chairperson
Andy Theriault	Member
Malachi Arreak	Member
David Igutsaq	Member
Gordon Koshinsky	Member
Kevin McCormick	Member
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter

Not Available:

Joannie Ikkidluak	Member (with cause)
David Aglukark	Member (with cause)

1. Call to Order

Ben Kovic, the Interim Chairperson, convened the Conference Call at 3:15 p.m. Ben called for a Motion to open the session. **(Resolution 95- 001)**

2. Development of Operating Procedures

Kevin McCormick reported that Mary Crnkovich and Ron Ryan both expressed strong interest in doing this work. Mary would focus on the operational aspects while Ron would concentrate on matters of personnel. They would develop separate proposals, although they would work in collaboration. They have in mind a third person, currently working for NTI, who might also assist. NTI is hoping that a measure of consistency in operating procedures emerges among all the Boards.

It was agreed to formally invite Mary and Ron to develop and submit their proposals(s), with workplan and costing details. The proposal, once received, will be examined by the Operations Committee and circulated to the Members for final comment and decision.

Andy Theriault and Ben Kovic both stressed that writing of job descriptions must be a priority. Kevin replied that Mary indicated that the job descriptions identified for completion would be available by the end of April.

3. Harvest Study Design: Selecting a Contractor

Gordon Koshinsky reminded Members that he circulated a draft "Request for Proposal" at the recent Board meeting in Rankin Inlet. Kevin, Andy and Ben indicated that they will provide comments next week.

Gordon asked for suggestions on who should be invited to bid. Malachi Arreak noted that the conduct of the Harvest Study is to be "contracted to an appropriate DIO" as per the NLCA, and perhaps this should be left to it/them. Gordon agreed that DIOs will have a major role to play, but this did not necessarily extend to Study design. The Study is to be carried out under the direction of the NWMB.

4. Investment of NWMB Funds

Andy Theriault reported on the disposition of funds that had been transferred to the Board in respect to the Wildlife Research Trust (\$11.0 million) and the Bowhead Knowledge Study (\$0.5 million). These funds were recently reinvested for sixty days, subject to termination (by the Board) on seven days notice. The Bank of Montreal has been asked to provide an estimate of interest owing to the Board by the Federal Government on account of the late transfer of the funds.

The Board needs to decide, hopefully at the next regular Meeting, which Bank is going to be used for the Board's accounts. Malachi Arreak contacted the Royal Bank but has not yet had a response.

5. Budget Update

Andy Theriault confirmed that the Contribution Agreement for 1994/95 as agreed by the Board at the Rankin Inlet Meeting will be forwarded to DIAND shortly. The terminology changes that the Board requested are being incorporated.

The Finance and Administration Committee has requested a meeting with personnel from MacKay-Landau to discuss their proposal to develop accounting procedures for the Board. It is hoped to get them started soon on a training program for Evie Amagoalik. A job description for Evie is urgently needed so that she can be brought on staff (rather than contracted).

6. Birds of Nunavut (Book Project)

Andy Theriault advised that he is in periodic communication with Arctic College regarding this project. The NWMB made its financial commitment contingent upon support also being forthcoming from other agencies; an important consideration now is to obtain confirmation of such other support. The Canadian Wildlife Service has provided staff support and information. Marius Tungilik of Renewable Resources has indicated that his Department might provide assistance.

7. Other Business

David Igutsaq noted that four Kitikmeot communities (Cambridge Bay, Bathurst Inlet, Bay Chimo and Coppermine) lack local radio service, and he invited suggestions on how these communities might be kept informed of what the NWMB is doing. Malachi Arreak asked if they get Inuvik CBC. David replied that only Cambridge Bay has the Inuvik station. David noted that he can communicate with Pelly Bay by telephone, but this is not practical for the other communities. Andy Theriault suggested that the Kitikmeot (Regional) Hunters and Trappers Association in Coppermine might be asked to channel information to the four communities. David Igutsaq noted that Bay Chimo and Bathurst Inlet do not have fax facilities. Representatives from all these communities will presumably attend the Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers Association AGM in May, and the matter will be further explored at that time.

David Igutsaq asked when calling cards will be available for Members. Andy Theriault replied that calling cards will be ordered soon.

David Igutsaq suggested that the time of Board Members spent in Board Conference Calls should be reimbursed comparable to what is paid for attending Board Meetings. Members agreed to refer the matter for consideration and inclusion in the Board's Operating Procedures.

Andy Theriault reported that furniture has arrived, and the move into the office space being leased from Nunasi Corporation will take place in the next day or two.

Gordon Koshinsky reported that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has enquired if the Board intends to send an observer to the IWC meeting in Mexico in May. It was agreed that NWMB is in no position yet to gain or contribute commensurate with such investment of effort and funds. DFO will be so informed, by means of a letter from the Chairperson to Mr. Wong.

Gordon Koshinsky suggested that the Board should alert the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans about the request received for authorization to conduct a walrus sport hunt. He perceived this as a complex and important issue, and offered to draft an appropriate letter to the Minister.

Gordon Koshinsky enquired about the status of the Bowhead Knowledge Study. Andy Theriault replied that the Committee interpreted that it was tentatively authorized at the Rankin Inlet Meeting to obtain the services of a biologist to lead the Study. Gordon urged that interviews for the biologist position be fast-tracked, so that development of the Study plan can start as quickly as possible.

Gordon Koshinsky reminded the Board that his appointment is “to represent the public interest”, and that neither he nor the Department considered that it was his role to represent DFO. Gordon reported noticing that the presence and participation of the DFO representative at the last Board Meeting seemed to meet with less than complete enthusiasm. It was agreed that DFO was entitled to have an observer at all regular Board Meetings, and that the Department could expect to be regularly accommodated in the agenda.

It was also suggested that another teleconference call should be arranged before the Taloyoak meeting. It was also suggested that if any members had anything they wanted on the agenda that they should let Evie Amagoalik or Ben Kovic know at least two weeks before the meeting.

8. Adjournment

The Conference Call adjourned at 4:15 p.m. **(Resolution 95- 002)**

Minutes Approved by: _____ **Date** _____
Interim Chairperson