

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MINUTES: CONFERENCE CALL No. 18

WEDNESDAY, 6 MARCH 1996

Participants:

Ben Kovic	Chairperson
Joannie Ikkidluak	Member
Kevin McCormick	Member
David Igutsaq	Member
Gordon Koshinsky	Member
Malachi Arreak	Member
Marius Tungilik	Member
Meeka Mike	Member
Jim Noble	Executive Director
Dan Pike	Director, Wildlife Management
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter

Not Available:

David Aglukark	Member (with cause)
----------------	---------------------

1. Call to Order

The Chairperson, Ben Kovic, convened the Conference Call at 11:00 a.m.

2. Agenda

Mr. Kovic identified three items for agenda:

- Hunt location, 1996 bowhead hunt,
- Hunt licensee, 1996 bowhead hunt, and
- Facilitating polar bear Management Agreements

3. Hunt Location, 1996 Bowhead Hunt

Ben Kovic reminded the Board of its decision to move the hunt from Duke of York Bay (as per the recommendation of the Hunt Planning Committee) to Repulse Bay (as per the decision of the NWMB: Ikaluktutiak Meeting, Resolution 96-079), and of the Board's request to him to discuss the decision with key individuals from the two communities (Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay) prior to making an announcement. Ben advised that he had undertaken the discussion by way of a conference call. Coral Harbour representatives expressed keen disappointment that the hunt location was moved without their input, and identified alternative hunt locations which they deemed more appropriate than Repulse Bay. Ben queried whether the Board wished to stand by its decision.

Joannie Ikkidluak reiterated his view that Repulse Bay offered major economies in terms of cost and effort, as well as a more reliable location for the hunt. The two communities should work together to organize and undertake the hunt. Ben Kovic noted that questions of monetary cost should be of only incidental concern to the Board, since the Board was contributing funds only for planning. Gordon Koshinsky pointed out that the physical location of the hunt need not constrain or determine the hunt participants, and care should be taken to ensure that the licence is made flexible in that regard. David Igutsaq stated that it was not Inuit tradition to argue about access to animals, and such behaviour could be expected to jeopardize the success of the hunt. Marius Tungilik predicted that the Board can expect to face this kind of acrimony when it makes allocation decisions in the face of competing interests. Malachi Arreak suggested that the Board should have confined its participation to setting the total allowable harvest, leaving selection of the hunt location to the Hunt Planning Committee.

The Board decided to re-affirm the original Board decision (Resolution 96-079), and to announce the decision in terms that acknowledge the concerns expressed by the communities.

4. Hunt Licensee, 1996 Bowhead Hunt

A number of alternatives for licensee were examined by the Board:

- The NWMB. Kevin McCormick pointed out that if the Board sets the TAH, the Board cannot realistically hold the licence (i.e. the Board would not be able to effectively oversee its own participation).
- The Community or the HTA. Gordon Koshinsky pointed out that this would minimize flexibility regarding participation in the actual hunt.
- The RWO (Keewatin Wildlife Federation).

- The Hunt Planning Committee, perhaps in right of the Hunt Captain. Meeka Mike pointed out that the Committee is not really a duly-constituted entity.

The Board decided to defer to advice from the Hunt Planning Committee on this matter, while recognizing that the RWO is probably the most reasonable entity to serve as licensee.

5. Facilitating Polar Bear Management Agreements

Jim Noble reminded the Board that GNWT Renewable Resources was in process of developing new polar bear Management Agreements and that it is important that these be completed. The American authorities need to see effective management action occurring, to spur them to positive efforts permitting importation of polar bear trophies. More work yet needs to be done by Renewable Resources, e.g. with respect to compensation issues. However, the main management frameworks (which should concern the Board) have been worked out (with the HTAs), and this material has been seen by the Board.

Kevin McCormick suggested that the Board could endorse those management frameworks which have already been developed which pertain to the Board's jurisdiction, assuming that the Board agrees with them. David Igutsaq concurred, on the assumption that the Board will have opportunity for subsequent/further reviews. The Board decided to endorse the principle of the management frameworks. **(Resolution 96-099)**

6. Adjournment

The Conference Call adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Minutes Approved by: _____
Chairperson **Date**

Resolution 96- 099: Resolved that the GNWT Minister of Renewable Resources be advised that the NWMB endorses in principle the management frameworks embodied in the revised polar bear Management Agreements as currently drafted, with the Board to be kept advised of further developments in this matter.

Moved by: David Igutsaq
Carried

Seconded by: Kevin McCormick
Date: 6 March 1996

