Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCY 2012 Implementation Meeting #4 | March 2012

L^ነት 14-17, 2012 14-17 March 2012 Kitnuna Boardroom, Cambridge Bay, NU

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DAY ONE: Wednesday, 14 March (9AM-5PM)

1. Ρανάσηροσο Νουρίσου Διρο Γουρίσου Νιρουρίσου Νιρουρίσου Νουρίσου Νουρίσο Introductions & Opening Round Table

ACMC Members Present: Joseph Tikhak Sr. (Member), Jeannie Evalik (Chairperson), Kitty Taipagak (Member), and Jennie Rausch (Vice-chair)

Other attendees: Emily Angulalik (Inuinnagtun translator), Leslie Emingak (Kitnuna; meeting logistics coordinator), Ann (Cambridge Bay CLO), and Kim Jones (CWS employee)

Regrets: Simona Akkikungnag (ACMC Member), Ben Putuguq (ACMC Member)

2.9PF9299CDReview agenda

We reviewed the agenda. No changes were made. Jennie handed out copies of the Ahiak ACMC approved Workplan and Budget.

3. $P\Gamma^2\Delta^{46}CD\sigma^{6}\Gamma^{6}$ $\Delta\Delta\dot{\Phi}^{46}CD^{7}L^{46}$ $B\Pi L\sigma D LD^{46}D\Gamma^{6}$ $\Lambda^{6}L^{4}\Phi^{6}$ Go over summary from Meeting #3

We read through the summary notes from Meeting #3. No changes were made aside from correcting Kitty's name / e-mail and Jennie's name in management notes.

Management Planning

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Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LC 2012

Implementation Meeting #4 | March 2012

Briefly discussed the results of the Cultural Heritage Resources Report prepared in 2011 for Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. by Julie Harris [Contentworks Inc. (consulting company)]. Jennie will send copies of the report to all ACMC members upon returning to Yellowknife.

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Summary of Kim's presentation:

Brief Background

- Canada is one of the few countries with large areas of land relatively intact and rich in wildlife and cultural resources
- In order to protect important habitats, Environment Canada (EC) created the Protected Areas Network consisting of 54 National Wildlife Areas (NWA) and 92 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) across Canada (combined total area is almost 12 million hectares)
- Purpose of Network: conservation (protecting), research, interpretation (education)
- 11 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in Nunavut
- Ensure long-term protection of migratory bird populations & their key habitats

Legal basis of MBS in Nunavut

- Migratory Birds Convention Act & associated regulations
- Unlike NWA, they do not provide protection to other wildlife species or habitats
- Nunavut Land Claims Agreement
- Conservation Areas Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement (2008) guarantees comanagement of MBS; Important feature is the development of ACMCs

Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary Protected Area Summary

- Created to protect nesting & breeding grounds of Ross's Geese (small white geese)
- The first colony was documented in 1938 (Gavin 1947)
- Largest Protected Area in Canada (Over 6 million hectares)

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Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCV 2012 Implementation Meeting #4 | March 2012

Contains both marine and terrestrial habitat

The Landscape

- Generally flat plain (elevation ranges from sea level to ~100m)
- Overlain postglacial marine deposits (creates good habitat)
- Varied topography (High rolling hills, various glacial features)
- Numerous ponds, lakes, & rivers
- Among the most extensive wetlands in the mid-Arctic
- Covers over 95% of the Queen Maud Gulf Lowlands ecoregion
- Part of the Coronation Gulf-Queen Maud Gulf drainage basin

Vegetation

- Lowlands: wet sedge meadows and marshy tundra
- Uplands: communities of lichen, moss, and vascular plants

Weather

- Short, cool summers (mean temperatures around 5.5°C)
- Long & very cold winters (mean temperatures around -27°C)
- High winds (average 20km/hr) & fluctuations in weather are common
- Coastal areas are colder than inland parts

Brief Cultural History

- Originally occupied by two Inuit groups (The Copper Inuit in the west and the Netsilik Inuit in the east)
- Commonly referenced boundary = Perry River
- No known contact between groups until 1832
- Little outside contact until 1926 marks arrival of the Hudson's Bay Co. & Roman Catholic Church
- In 1967 the HBC in Perry River abruptly closed and there were no more trading posts within the Sanctuary
- The people of Perry River had no choice but to relocate to either Gjoa Haven or Cambridge Bay = end of year-round communities in the Sanctuary
- Currently about 18 (surface rights only) parcels of Inuit Owned Land located within the Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) MBS

Developing a Management Plan

• Currently no plan for Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) MBS (or most MBS in NU)

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Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCV 2012 Implementation Meeting #4 | March 2012

- They are important because they provide a framework for management decisions
- Development (2 Phases)
 - Phase 1: Literature Review & Document Achieve (for both cultural and wildlife resources)
 - Phase 2: Identify gaps in the information needed for planning
- 2011 cultural study completed
- 2012 ecological study completed (what Kim's presenting on today)

Research conducted in the Sanctuary prior its establishment as a MBS (1938-1960)

- 1930s First documentation of nesting grounds of Ross's Goose at Discovery Lake (Gavin 1947)
- Followed by numerous surveys of the Queen Maud Gulf region
- Populations of Ross's estimated 5,000-6,000 individuals
- Primary Focus: Inventorying the physical & biological resources of the Perry River area & nesting biology & distribution of Ross' Geese

After establishment as a MBS (1961- onwards)

- The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) administers the Migratory Birds Convention Act under the authority of the federal Minister of Environment
- CWS behind the majority of research within the Sanctuary
- 30 research permits issued to CWS since 1975 (many multi-year & mostly from the Canadian prairie provinces which are responsible for studying geese)
- CWS is a co-sponsor in a number of important projects and ongoing research such as Karrak Lake research station (1991-Present), 2005 land-cover mapping project, and shorebird monitoring activities (2001, 2005/06)
- CWS conducted a classification of wildlife habitats from 1990-1995 as a response to the 1986 Northern Mineral Policy which called for a review of the boundaries for all MBS in the NWT (including the Ahiak (QMG) MBS)
- 1995 CWS Yellowknife hosts meeting of biologist who have worked in the Ahiak (QMG) MBS.
 - They recommended that the southern boundary of the Sanctuary should be adjusted upwards (decrease in total size of 10-12%); and that the designation of the Sanctuary should change to a NWA because of its importance to non-bird species (i.e. Muskoxen & Caribou). Also since the Canadian Wildlife Act (which applies to an NWA) is better suited to comanagement & is a stronger piece of legislation.
 - This review demonstrated that current information was inadequate for any

Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCV 2012 Implementation Meeting #4

March 2012

alterations.

1991 - Karrak Lake Research Station

- Ray Alisauskas arrived in the area in 1989, and in 1991, with help from Stuart Slattery, Garry Gentle, and others, established the Karrak Lake Research Station
- Most research conducted in the Sanctuary is now out of Karrak Lake Research Station (close to the researcher Ryder's historic camp)
- Primary objective: Study factors that influence population dynamics of Ross's & lesser snow geese
- Conduct goose banding & population estimates of colonies & non-colonial goose species
- Capture of geese by helicopter-assisted drives occurs twice annually in the sanctuary (Perry River and north of Karrak Lake or by colony 10)
- Other objectives include snow surveys, collections & dissections, nest plots (initiation, incubation & success), passerine survey, collar reading, small mammal trapping, predator sightings, vegetation enclosures and surveys
- Majority of research is co-sponsored through many different government & nongovernment sources
- Ongoing Sea Duck Program
 - o King eider population dynamics & breeding ecology (Initiated 1995) and extended to include long-tailed ducks (1998)
- Lots of shorter-term projects (of graduate students & others) such as the Karrak Lake Arctic Fox Project (initiated in 2000)
- Other project have focused on geese, other waterfowl, various gulls, Arctic terns, passerines, and small mammals (voles & lemmings) (Shorter-term projects are often integrated with longer ongoing research projects)

CWS Land Cover Mapping 2005

- CWS Occasional Paper by Andrew Didiuk & Robert S. Ferguson
- Used LANDSAT radar (photos from space)
- Thirteen land cover types identified & mapped
 - Three turbidity classes of water (84% accuracy)
 - Ten terrestrial land cover types (89% accuracy)
- Provides a basis for effective design and evaluation of current and future surveys to monitor wildlife populations within the sanctuary
- Provides effective means of assessing proposed boundary changes when used in conjunction with wildlife data & professional judgment

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Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCV 2012

Implementation Meeting #4

March 2012

Arctic Shorebird Monitoring Program

- Initiated in response to widespread shorebird population declines
- Objectives: Produce population estimates for arctic-breeding shorebirds
- Monitor trends in their populations over time
- Field Work done in the QMG MBS
 - o 2001 testing survey methods
 - 2005 (west)/2006 (east) summer field season conducting ground & aerial surveys out of Perry River
- Part of a larger project, the Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM)
- Additional research completed during the field season included lemming surveys, minnow sampling, daily weather measurements, rope dragging to look for nests

Government of Northwest Territories

- 14 CWS research permits for work in the Sanctuary all related to ungulate research (muskoxen and caribou)
- Research includes:
 - Visual & photographic aerial surveys of caribou calving grounds
 - Aerial survey for Muskoxen followed by collecting sex & age composition
 - Behavioral studies (for both)
- Recently, caribou habitat research (2009-2011)
- Kim showed map of satellite locations for Ahiak caribou cows from 2000-2006

Government of Nunavut – Kitikmeot Region

- Kim contacted the Regional Manager of Research in Kugluktuk and he reported that they have recently completed extensive caribou & carnivore survey in the area and hope to have the report ready within the next few months (they will send report to Jennie)
- Government projects listed for the Kitikmeot Region online include:
 - Wolverine and Grizzly bear Hair Snagging
 - Mainland Caribou Projects
 - Mainland and Boothia Peninsula Muskox
 - Harvest & Ecological Research Operational System (HEROS)
 - Vegetation Mapping

NOTE: All within the Kitikmeot, but may be outside the boundaries of the Sanctuary

There is a need to focus limited human & financial resources into culturally significant species (little research completed on animals which people do not use

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Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCV 2012 Implementation Meeting #4 | March 2012

regularly)

Other Scientific Permits (Since 1975)

- Geological Exploration and Research
 - o 7 research trips: 3 exploration trips (1975, 1995, 2004)
- USA Fish & Wildlife
 - 3 permits (one still valid)
 - Conducted periodic aerial Migratory Bird Surveys within the sanctuary

Misc. Permits (Since 1975)

- 27 commercial/private tourism (11 Canada, 15 USA, and 1 UK)
- Hunters & Trappers association (HTA) caribou & muskoxen sports hunting trips guiding non-beneficiaries
- Water gauging station visit
- A scientific photographer from the USA
- o Public Works Canada (Inspect possible contamination) believed to have been cleaned up

Importance of the Sanctuary for Migratory Birds

- Nesting/feeding grounds for the largest variety of geese in any single area in North America
- Light Geese Colonies over 60 active geese colonies (recall: only 35 in late 60's)
- Ross' Geese (over 90% of the world population of Ross' Geese (Kerbes 1994); Estimated 982,000 individuals in 1998)
- Snow Geese (more than 30% of the Western Canadian Arctic, Lesser Snow Goose; over 1 million Snow Geese estimated at Karrak Lake 2010)
- Greater White-fronted Goose (14% of the mid-continent Greater White-fronted) Goose population); like coastal areas
 - o A 5 yr banding study (1998-2002) was initiated following concerns about the status of the geese (Principal investigator was Ray Alisauskas)
- One of the few nesting areas in the World for both Atlantic and Pacific Brant approximately 5% of the Pacific Brant population)
- 6% west/central North American King Eider Population; highest known breeding densities just South of Sanctuary
- Eiders often nest on islands with Arctic Terns to increase nest success
- Estimated 18% of the eastern Tundra Swan population
- Other notable waterfowl species include Canada goose, Cackling goose, Longtailed duck, and Northern Pintail)

Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCY 2012 Implementation Meeting #4

March 2012

- o The Ellice River is an important areas for Canada Geese (In 1985, held 2% of Canadian population)
- Sumer habitat for many species of waterbirds including loons (Pacific, Yellowbilled, and Red Throated), Sandhill Cranes (2% of global population), Jaegers, Terns, and Gulls
- Good breeding habitat for Various Shorebirds estimate 1 million through-out
- Songbirds widespread & the most common birds in shrub habitat
- Good for ptarmigan (Rock & Willow)
- Species at Risk listed raptor, Peregrine Falcon is relatively common
- Good habitat for Snowy Owl & Rough-legged Hawk

Summary for Literature on Birds

- Found ~150 reports/documents
- Majority focus white geese (Ross's geese and Lesser snow geese) research & their colonies/habitat/relationships
- Since mid-90's, increased research on King Eiders (~15 reports) due to Sea duck program at Karrak Lake
- A few documents/reports on Long-tailed Duck (<5), Cackling Geese(<5), Canada Goose (<10), Greater White-fronted Geese (<5), Glaucous Gulls (<5), General reports on Seabirds/Waterfowl (6)

Importance of the Sanctuary for Terrestrial Mammals

- Encompasses the calving and summering grounds of the Ahiak barren-ground caribou herd (large herd)
- Traditional calving grounds of the Bathurst herd
- Provides vast tracks of land for Grizzly Bear (listed as a species of special concern under the Committee on the Status of Endanger Wildlife in Canada)
- Originating stock for most of present day mainland Muskoxen
 - o Rare white (blond) Muskoxen have been spotted in the sanctuary
- Ungulate populations support a healthy population of predators such as Arctic Fox, Wolf, and Wolverine
 - Wolverine are listed as species of special concern under the Committee on the Status of Endanger Wildlife in Canada
- Healthy populations of small furbearing mammals such as Arctic Hare, Least weasel, Red-backed Vole, Collard & Brown Lemmings, & Arctic Ground Squirrel

Summary for Literature on Terrestrial Mammals

• Found ~78 reports/documents

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Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCV 2012 Implementation Meeting #4

March 2012

- Majority on barren-ground caribou (over half related to Bathurst herd [>40])
- Little on the Ahiak herd
- Approximately 25 documents found on Arctic fox; >10 with results directly linked to the sanctuary due to Karrak Lake Arctic Fox Project
- Research on other terrestrial mammals very limited

Other Resources

- Contains a section identified as an Arctic Char area of abundance
- The area around Perry River includes important Ringed seal habitat
- Whales are rare except for the occasional narwhale
- Virtually no scientific research documented on fish and marine mammals

Progress Report of Wildlife Study (Jennie has this material)

- Developed a descriptive bibliography with over 250 titles
- Document Archive (currently, around 150 electronic copies collected & a number of hard copies in the EC library)
- Extensive list of helpful web resources
- Detailed lists of permits approved within the Ahiak (QMB) MBS since 1975
- Detailed list of on-going research projects
- Filled in the majority of information required in the Management Plan template

Phase 2 Report: Information Gaps and Potential Conflicts

- This area has received, & continues to receive, considerable diamond & mineral exploration
- Pressure to allow mineral prospecting in the Ahiak (QMG) MBS
- Low-level aircraft and camps associated with this kind of activity are possible sources of disturbance to migratory birds
- Exponential growth of white geese (between 1966 and 2010, the Karrak Lake population grew from nearly 17,000 to over 1.2 million individuals!)
- Noticed dramatic increases in the area of terrestrial habitat occupied by the geese
- Negative effects on habitat brings up a number of conservation concerns
- Survey & monitoring efforts remain focused upon the known nesting colonies of Ross's & Snow geese
- Little information is available regarding wildlife habitat within the Sanctuary
- No information on the distribution of those habitat features of importance to waterfowl & other species of wildlife

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Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCY 2012 Implementation Meeting #4 | March 2012

Moving Forward

- Need to understand the impacts the growth of lesser snow and Ross's geese may have on their habitat (much of the eastern half of the sanctuary has been impacted)
- Need to understand the carrying capacity of this important sanctuary for geese and other wildlife
- How much habitat is available?
- How many more Snow and Ross' Geese can the sanctuary support?
- What will a reduction of habitat mean for other wildlife species?

Recommendations for Moving Forward

- Further habitat research i.e.) Vegetation enclosures
- Mapping of the carrying capacity of the sanctuary for geese and other wildlife
- Mapping of the extent and intensity of vegetation removal by Snow and Ross' Geese

Kim ended by talking about how many changes and challenges in the North are out of our control such as climate induced changes, atmospheric fallout resulting in heavy metal and pesticide pollution, increasing industrialization, and invasive species. However, we have an opportunity to focus on the things we can control with the management plan, but need to keep big changes in mind and be flexible.

Jennie will provide ACMC members with material from Kim's presentation upon returning to Yellowknife.

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Decide what other info is needed and what to do to get

Two information gaps were identified in the ecological review by the group:

Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCY 2012 Implementation Meeting #4 | March 2012

- 1) Baseline water quality information is not available and has not been completed. Especially important once mining development establishes upstream of the Sanctuary.
- 2) No record of any sort of fish or aquatic species inventory happening. The group decided to bring pictures of fish believed to occur within the Sanctuary to the open house.
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Kim showed the group the template she has been working on filling out for the Management Plan and showed them an example of what a completed plan has looked like in the past. Jennie talked about how she would like to see the management plan for the Ahiak (QMG) MBS more detailed then past plans.

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Question revisited on Day 3.

- DAY TWO: Thursday, 15 March (9AM-5PM)

ACMC Members Present: Joseph Tikhak Sr. (Member), Jeannie Evalik (Chairperson), Kitty Taipagak (Member), Jennie Rausch (Vice-chair), and Ben Putugug (ACMC Member)

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Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCY 2012 Implementation Meeting #4

March 2012

Other attendees: Emily Angulalik (Inuinnagtun translator), Leslie Emingak (Kitnuna; meeting logistics coordinator), Ann (Cambridge Bay CLO), Kim Jones (CWS employee), and Jim Leafloor (CWS waterfowl biologist from Manitoba)

Regrets: Simona Akkikungnaq (ACMC Member)

Ben opened the meeting with a prayer.

Jennie introduced Jim to the group and reiterated the role of the ACMC in the permit application process for the Ahiak (QMG) MBS.

Presentation by permit applicant, Jim Leafloor about his work on white geese

Jim took the morning to present and discuss "Goose Management in the Prairie and Northern Region".

He introduced himself and explained that he has been working with and banding mainly geese for the last 22vrs. This permit is for the Arctic Goose Banding Program.

Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCY 2012 Implementation Meeting #4

March 2012

Arctic Goose Banding Sites (2006)

Location	Site Lead	Species
Cape Henrietta		
Maria	Ontario MNR	Lesser snow geese
	American Museum Natural	
La Perouse Bay	History	Lesser snow geese
West Hudson Bay	CWS, PMU	Ross's geese
		Lesser snow geese
Southampton Island	CWS, PMU	Atlantic brant
		Cackling geese
		Ross's geese
		Lesser snow geese
Baffin Island	CWS, PMU	Atlantic brant
		Cackling geese
		Ross's geese
		Lesser snow geese
Perry River	S&T, Environment Canada	White-fronted geese
_		Cackling geese
Karrak Lake	S&T, Environment Canada	Lesser snow geese
		Ross's geese

- Jim spoke about how they catch the geese to band them (helicopter assisted drives and men on ground to walk geese into pens made of net)
- Talked about the types of leg bands they use (unique #) and that they no longer use neckbands. Joseph expressed his concerns about neck banding and his experiences of finding geese in poor physical condition.
- At each location, banding takes about 10 days and they can band thousands of geese (About 20,000 geese are banded per yr in the Arctic)
- Banding is one of the primary means of monitoring the status of arctic-nesting geese
- They band Lesser Snow Geese, Ross' Geese (smaller white geese), Whitefronted Geese, Cackling Geese and Atlantic Brant at several concentration areas in the Canadian arctic
- Most information is provided by hundreds of thousands of North American waterfowl hunters who report band numbers from marked birds that they harvest (1.7 million hunters in the USA; 170,000 in Canada)
- Banding provides detailed information not only about population dynamics and distribution of these species, but also factors that influence those patterns

Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LC 2012 Implementation Meeting #4

March 2012

- When used in combination with harvest survey data, band recoveries can be used to estimate population size
- Jim showed us photos of geese in the south and maps of migration routes
- There has been a huge (exponential) growth in snow geese over the last 50yrs
- So many geese that they can blacken the sky (about 15 million mid-continent Snow Geese in North America)
- Growth is largely due to declining numbers of hunters, the geese using bird refuges (geese are smart and know where they are safe), and availability of food due to natural grasslands being converted into farmland (especially corn)
- Jim showed how the growth in agricultural corn production links directly to the growth in geese populations
- Geese are damaging habitat (showed the group an example from Hudson Bay coastline); geese grub and eat roots of grass
- Without the grass and other vegetation, salt is coming into the water (salination) and killing plants. Also without the roots of the plants, the dirt is going into the water (sedimentation)
- Jim's group are using satellites (can take pictures from space) to document habitat changes/loss over time
- Already about 35% of Hudson Bay lowland habitat is destroyed, 30% damaged. and 35% overgrazed
- Banding helps provide important information on survival estimates (90% survival rate for adults; about 50% survival rate for young geese)
- Geese live ~12 years
- Kim asked if any of the exposed peat is natural. Jim said this is something they don't yet know, but are hoping to understand.
- Jim encouraged the Inuit people to hunt Snow Geese and showed slides on how to make goose jerky and sausages
- Committee asked if the program ever hirers local Inuit. Jim said they do. Jennie talked to the group about Student Mentorship programs and CWS.

Review permit application(s) and make recommendations

Group reviewed the permit application together and Jennie read over each section reminding the group of what they should consider. Jennie spoke to the group about

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Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCY 2012 Implementation Meeting #4 | March 2012

how certain conditions always apply, but that they have the authority to add extra conditions. Jim is applying for a 3vr scientific CWS permit from July 1, 2012 to end of summer 2014. Funding will be provided by CWS, Polar Continental Shelf (Natural Resources Canada), and US Fish & Wildlife. There will be 21 people involved in the program.

The group approved the activities outline on the permit application.

- Management Planning continued
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Jennie talked about how she would like to see the archeological archives mapped that were highlighted in the Cultural Resource Report so that the committee can use them to make informed management decisions. She also talked about maintaining privacy and confidentiality of these sites.

Discussed contacting those involved with the Nunavut Land Use Planning maps to find information to help the group map resources such as fish, berries, soap stone, etc.

Created a detailed map with information on known cabins, known areas where people hunt or have seen caribou, muskox, moose, fish, berries, wolverine, seals, and other wildlife resources. Kim will make a scan of these maps upon returning to Yellowknife.

Discussed article in the news paper about the KIA teaming up with HTX Mineral Corp. (from Ontario). Jennie reminded the group of how important it is they are her eyes and ears up in the northern communities and part of their job is to keep her informed of developments like these.

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March 2012

Ahiak MBS

Group discussed the idea of developing management zones. Jennie mentioned this is something they may need to think about in the future. Everyone agreed it would be handy to have wildlife and cultural maps when considering an area for a certain zone.

Jennie mentioned several examples of how zones could be set up. I.e. may have a zone that is not as strictly prohibited or have it so that an areas zone changes depending on time of year (since birds only nest in the summers). Or could have it so that Zone A includes Inuit Owned Lands (IOL) within the Sanctuary and Zone B includes lands without IOL within the Sanctuary.

Jennie asked how people felt about allowing the development of ice roads in the winter.

The group did not like the idea of zones or allowing any sort of infrastructure, including ice roads. They liked the idea of one set of rules and thought it was a better way to keep control of activities (and keep industry out) in the Sanctuary. They really want the Ahiak (QMG) MBS to remain a resting place for wildlife. Talked about a need for consistency with air permits and also landing permits for tourism/commercial ships.

This conversation led into a group discussion about the vision for the Sanctuary:

To conserve and protect a place for wildlife and people...

- to be recognized as a national bird sanctuary (for more people to know about it and how important it is for wildlife)
- for the water and the land to be safe for people and wildlife to eat, drink and use
- to keep it a safe place to wildlife to live where there isn't any development
- balance for all species to be able to manage all species within the Sanctuary – not that one species is more important than any other
- continue to have the area for available for beneficiaries to hunt and use
- continue to have bird and wildlife research done in the MBS

Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCY 2012 Implementation Meeting #4

March 2012

- Jennie will look up what the ACMC wrote on creating a vision last March with Leena
- keep the area from being harmed from outside influences (oil spills, noise, cruise ships, developments, explosives) in and around the border

What should be our goals in managing the Ahiak MBS?

- 1) To manage and conserve the Sanctuary's migratory bird populations and their natural habitats in a manner consistent with the Migratory Birds Convention Act, Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations, and with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the CA-IIBA:
- 2) To protect the land for birds and all wildlife and continue to maintain it as a safe and development-free place for wildlife to live;
- 3) To manage the Sanctuary with respect to the land, wildlife and the cultural history.
- 4) To manage the white goose populations so they don't interfere with other bird and wildlife species- encourage white geese egg hunting and harvest by Nunavummiut to help control white geese populations
- 5) To encourage public awareness of and appreciation for the Ahiak MBS
- 6) To work towards converting the MBS to a National Wildlife Area to ensure it is best suited to co-management, and that the area is protected for all wildlife year round not just birds.
- 7) Keep the area from being harmed from outside influences (oil spills, noise, cruise ships, developments, explosives, excessive air traffic) in and around the border
- 8) To know what activities are taking place in the Ahiak MBS and to ensure illegal activities and things that cause wildlife harm and disrupt their natural activities (migration, breeding, raising their young) are not occurring.

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Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCY 2012 Implementation Meeting #4 | March 2012

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DAY THREE: Friday, 16 March (9AM-5PM)

ACMC Members Present: Joseph Tikhak Sr. (Member), Jeannie Evalik (Chairperson), Kitty Taipagak (Member), Jennie Rausch (Vice-chair), and Ben Putugug (ACMC Member)

Other attendees: Emily Angulalik (Inuinnagtun translator), Leslie Emingak (Kitnuna; meeting logistics coordinator), Ann (Cambridge Bay CLO), Kim Jones (CWS employee), and Steve Allan (CWS Environmental Enforcement Officer)

Regrets: Simona Akkikungnaq (ACMC Member)

Ben opened the meeting with a prayer.

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Presentation by CWS enforcement officer, Steve Allan, about enforcement of permits and activities in the Bird Sanctuary, learn what actions are illegal within the MBS, what can be enforced, who does it

Steve presented from 9am – noon

He presented on how the federal enforcement branch is structured and what legislation it functions under (4 main pieces of legislation he works with):

- 1. Migratory Birds Convention Act (and its associated regulations)
- 2. Canadian Wildlife Act (and Wildlife Area Regulations)
- 3. The Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRITTA) and regulations (to do with wild animal and plant trade)

Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee | LC 2012 Implementation Meeting #4

March 2012

4. Species at Risk Act (SARA)

He explained that there are two wildlife enforcement officers responsible for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut combined (14 in the Prairie & Northern Region), but that they often work collaboratively and that there is some overlap/duplication in responsibilities with other groups such as provincial / territorial wildlife officers, CBSA, the RCMP and other enforcement, US Fish & Wildlife, Coast Guard, etc).

He explained his responsibilities as an enforcement officer and that they conduct inspections/investigations under the Migratory Birds Convention Act. He gave examples of trafficking migratory birds (i.e. Peregrine Falcon), however, he is not responsible for Birds of Prey and mainly deals with waterfowl.

He talked about how there are 5 National Wildlife Areas (NWA) in Nunavut (2 older, 3 as of 2007). The GN is not appointed to help with NWAs but can help if asked. Access is a big challenge for him; it is very hard to visit all of the MBS and NWA due to cost (i.e. \$55,000 for one person to go to Polar Bear Pass NWA). To date, he has personally been able to visit/fly over only 4 out of all of the MBS and NWA within the NWT and NU during his 7yrs as an enforcement officer.

He explained that you can not enter a NWA without a permit and can be charged if found inside one without a permit. However, for MBS he can not charge someone for entering unless he can prove they caused disturbance to the birds. Note: Beneficiaries of the NLCA have free and unrestricted access.

Steve talked about his undercover operations and involvement with the oil sands. He explained that other officers were delegated specifically to Oil Sands, but he would help out if needed.

Summary of questions/main points:

1) Jeannie asked if there were issues with people taking caribou meat and expressed concerns about low flying and mining in the MBS.

Steve said height restrictions for air space over MBSs are often done. For example, there is a 600ft rule for airspace over Kendall Island MBS. He explained that the responsibility for terrestrial mammals is with the GN wildlife officers, but they could ask him for help. Mining is also not under his control unless someone was to cause harm /

Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee | LCP 2012 Implementation Meeting #4

March 2012

disturbance to migratory birds – then he could step in.

- 2) Jeannie started a discussion about the rules surrounding goose down companies and taking goose down from live birds. Steve explained the rules around that kind of harvesting and that you are not allowed to take goose down without a permit. He gave an example of a researcher removing King Eider down and confiscating it from them. In this example no charges were made due to the circumstances surrounding that case, but he explained that if the individual had knowing done this they would have been charged.
- 3) Ann asked if Steve keeps track of pollutants in the conservation areas. Steve explained that Transport Canada has laws in place which protect against ocean dumping, but he isn't normally involved with any sort of monitoring.
- 4) Question #3 Branched into a conversation about resources and time being his biggest challenge. Not enough money, human resources, or time to monitor and protect all the conservation areas. Enforcement relies heavily on Canadian citizens to be there eyes and ears so that they can respond to situations which arise. Jeannie asked if he had talking to the different land claims organizations about more funding for staff. He explained that the best way for them to receive more staff is for us as citizens to pressure government asking for more help.
- 4) Jeannie asked Steve if they ever work with the Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) when monitoring sports hunting. Steve stated that legal sports hunting is fine (what HTO does), but also mentioned that fines for illegal hunting have recently increased and are in the 10s of thousands.
- 5) Jeannie asked about the laws surrounding the historic Norwegian ship that was found off of Victoria Island, NU. There was concern about the environment effect the ship was having on the marine ecosystems. Steve said he is unsure since that situation is not directly wildlife related and would be likely be under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Heritage branch. We talked about how the environmental effects of such an old ship would be minimal since there was no oil/gas/etc spilled.
- 6) There was a question about what happens to ceased goods. Steve explained the many items are given to universities or museums, but unfortunately most of the meat and perishable goods are wasted do to health concerns.

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Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee | LCP 2012 Implementation Meeting #4 | March 2012

- 7) Question about purchasing items made from animal products. Steve explained that if you buy an item such as a narwhale tusk from a store there should be a permit which comes with the item. However, even some legally obtained animal parts can not be sold or transferred into other countries. Rules vary between countries. In Canada, any item that has been made into a hand craft such as seal skin mitts or bone cravings are legal to purchase or sell without a permit.
- 8) No IIBA for the NWT, but they have other Acts which are similar.
- 9) Ann asked if Steve can provide wildlife information on illegal hunting, etc. She would like to see him give presentations to hunters from the northern communities such as Gjoa Haven and Cambridge Bay. Steve replied that this educational responsibility is more for CWS and GN to provide, but he would love the opportunity to speak to community members if it was arranged.
- 10) In the Ahiak (QMG) MBS there has been only a few issues he has had to deal with. One being the removal of Eider down and dealing with garbage from the Karrak Lake Research Station around 2006. Steve also helped deal with a situation where a researcher removed a baby muskoxen carcass from the Ahiak (QMG) MBS. He also has had to issue a warning to hunters using lead bird shots in the MBS about the health and environmental issues associated with using lead. ACMC members didn't realize this was wrong and want more information released into the local communities.
- 11) Group discussed about rules surrounding building cabins and potential illegal cabins which already exist within the Sanctuary. Steve mentioned it was hard for him to do much about cabins in a MBS unless it was harming birds and land owners were ok with it being there. Everyone agreed that the ACMC should construct a list of existing infrastructure for the Management Plan and require permit applications for any new developments.

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Discuss potential date options for site visit to the Bird Sanctuary

The group decided that August 20th-24th would be a good week to plan for. Jeannie offered to help Leslie with planning. Approximately 12 people will be going on this trip (6 ACMC members, Leslie from Kitnuna, a CLO, a bear monitor, a chef, and 2

Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCY 2012

Implementation Meeting #4 | March 2012

interpreters).

Revisited this question:

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Decide what areas we need to see in the MBS during site visit

Decided it would be useful to camp on Perry Island and visit Flagstaff Island if possible to look at old Hudson's Bay Company trading posts (culturally important). Group really wants to see Karrak Lake and all of the geese (ecologically important). Jennie also thought it would be beneficial for the group to fly over the southern part of the Ahiak (QMG) MBS since it is the least visited and relatively little is known about this area.

10. ጋ\>L'b'C>በペ∿σ'⁰ Communications

It was noted that the ACMC is still waiting on letters of appointment for the minister.

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There were no submissions entered in the community logo contest. Jennie will look into having a professional designer create one.

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Decide how to further inform communities about the IIBA and Ahiak MBS

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Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCY 2012 Implementation Meeting #4 | March 2012

The group discussed ideas on how to further inform communities about the IIBA and Ahiak (QMG) MBS. The idea of a commercial was discussed again and members talked about working with CLEY. Jennie said she would look into the costs associated with a commercial. The group talked about keeping money local where we can.

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Make a plan for communicating with Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven and Bay Chimo public

Everyone agreed that a brochure should be created. Jennie asked if they thought the brochure should be sent out to just those three communities or to everyone living within Kitikmeot region. The group decided Jennie should look into the price so they can compare. Jennie talked about ACMC members looking for opportunities to give a short presentation to various schools and organizations such as KIA or HTO. They agreed this was something they could do. Jennie will work on creating a presentation for members to use.

Ended meeting by reviewing the vision and goals & objectives from Thursday to see if anyone had come up with additional ideas.

۵۲-۱۵ (9۵-۱۵ نام ۲۵) ۵۲ ک^یه ۲۵ز (9۸-۱۵ نام ۱۵) DAY FOUR: Saturday, 17 March (9AM-NOON)

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Unfinished agenda items from previous days

No outstanding agenda items.

ACMC Members Present: Joseph Tikhak Sr. (Member), Jeannie Evalik (Chairperson), Kitty Taipagak (Member), Jennie Rausch (Vice-chair), and Ben Putugug (ACMC Member)

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Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCY 2012 Implementation Meeting #4 | March 2012

Other attendees: Emily Angulalik (Inuinnagtun translator), Leslie Emingak (Kitnuna; meeting logistics coordinator), Ann (Cambridge Bay CLO), and Kim Jones (CWS employee)

Regrets: Simona Akkikungnaq (ACMC Member)

Sanctuary

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Successful open house and coffee break; 18 members of the community were present (including ACMC members). Several elders (Emily had suggested we contact the Wellness center to assist in invitations) were in attendance as well as two children (under 12yrs). Jennie welcomed everyone to the open house and gave a presentation. Information that was covered included an overview of Environment Canada's Protected Areas Network, Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in Nunavut and in the Kitikmeot Region, overview of legislation surrounding MBS in Nunavut (Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, IIBA for conservations areas, Migratory Birds Conservation Act and associated regulations), an introduction to the Ahiak Area Co-management Committee and their responsibilities such as creating a Management Plan, a summary of the Ahiak (QMG) MBS, and the importance of its wildlife and cultural resources.

Upon concluding, those who were in attendance were asked to identify photos with species of fish believed to exist within Nunavut as well as identify areas important for either wildlife and/or having cultural significance on a map of the Sanctuary. They were

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Ahiak Area Comanagement Committee LCY 2012

Implementation Meeting #4

March 2012

also asked to identify known locations for existing cabins and if possible who owned or used them.

Fish Identified by ACMC members and open house attendants:

- Broad Whitefish (Emily, Ben and Paul)
- Round Whitefish (Ben and Paul)
- Lake Whitefish (Emily and Ben)
- Least Cisco (Ben)
- Lake Trout (Ben, Emily, and Paul)
- Ninespine Stickleback (Jennie)
- Arctic Grayling (Paul)
- Burbot (Ben said has seen in the rivers)
- Spoonhead Sculpin (Emily, Kitty, and Paul)
- Arctic Charr (Ben, Emily, Paul, David)
- Landlocked Arctic Charr (Emily, Ben, Paul)
- Ogac (Parks Canada)
- Polar and Arctic cod (Parks Canada)
- Arctic flounder (Kim believes this is the flat fish the group was telling her about)