

Matyi 2012
LCY 2012
March 2012

Kitnuna Boardroom, Cambridge Bay, NU

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

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

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

Regrets: Simona Akkikungnaq (ACMC Member), Ben Putugug (ACMC Member)

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

3. ຢູ່ປະຕິບັດສະຫຼາດ ແລະ ສະໜອງການ ບໍາລິເວນ ດ້ານ ລະບົບການ
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.

4. Management Planning

Matyi 2012
LCY 2012
March 2012

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- Contains both marine and terrestrial habitat

- 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

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

- 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

- 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 Ahiaik (Queen Maud Gulf) MBS

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

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- 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)

- 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

- 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 co-management & is a stronger piece of legislation.
 - This review demonstrated that current information was inadequate for any

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 & non-government sources
- Ongoing Sea Duck Program
 - 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

- 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
 - 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

- 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 Ahik caribou cows from 2000-2006

- 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 MappingNOTE: 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
Implementation Meeting #4

regularly)

- Geological Exploration and Research
 - 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

- 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
- Public Works Canada (Inspect possible contamination) – believed to have been cleaned up

- 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
 - 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, Long-tailed duck, and Northern Pintail)

March 2012

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- 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.

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 than past plans.

Question revisited on Day 3.

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Matyi 2012
LCY 2012
March 2012

Matyi 2012
LCY 2012
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6. ຢູ່ນຳຖືກຕື່ມເປັນ ພາລະການຊີ້ນຳຖືກຕື່ມ ແລະ ດຳລັດຊີ້ນຳຖືກຕື່ມ
Review permit application(s) and make recommendations

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14 of 25

Matyi 2012
LCY 2012
March 2012

The group approved the activities outline on the permit application.

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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.

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.

15 ▷ 25
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15 of 25

Matyi 2012
LCY 2012
March 2012

March 2012

March 2012

Matyi 2012
LCY 2012
March 2012

Revisited this question:

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

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Communications

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Review logo contest submissions and select a winner

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

Matyi 2012
LCY 2012
March 2012

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

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DAY FOUR: Saturday, 17 March (9AM-NOON)

11. **Δσ^{5b}CDPL^{5b}PC^{5b} ሥር ለርቢብካል^{5b} ከበሊኒብካላም ድጋም ሥጋምፈፅረድ^{5b}ጋም**

Unfinished agenda items from previous days

No outstanding agenda items.

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Matyi 2012
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Regrets: Simona Akkikungnag (ACMC Member)

11AM – Noon: public open house and coffee break, anyone from Cambridge Bay can come learn more about the Ahiak ACMC, meet the Ahiak ACMC members and let us know his or her thoughts on the Ahiak (Queen Maud Gulf) Migratory Bird Sanctuary

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

Matyi 2012
LCY 2012
March 2012

Fish Identified by ACMC members and open house attendants:

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25 of 25