

# Asungasungaat Area Co-management Committee

## Meeting Minutes

February 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Nattinak Visitors Center, Pond Inlet, NU

### Day 1 – February 7<sup>th</sup>

#### **Attendees:**

Enookie Inuarak - Chair  
Karla Letto – Vice-chair  
Paniloo Sangoya - Member  
Elijah Panikpakoochoo - Member  
Jimmy Pitseolak - Member  
Lisa Pirie-Dominix - ECCC  
Titus Arnakallak - Interpreter

Meeting started at 9:40 AM

#### **1. Opening Prayer**

- The meeting opened with a prayer led by Paniloo.

#### **2. Nomination of Chairperson**

- The ACMC initially decided to nominate Jimmy to act as the ACMC Chair for the February meeting.
- Later in the morning when all current members were present, the ACMC decided to elect a permanent Chair. As per the ACMC operating procedures, the members nominated Elijah and Enookie, who both indicated he was willing to stand for nomination. After voting by secret ballot, Enookie was elected as the new Chair for the ACMC.
- Jimmy continued acting as the Chair for the morning meeting.

#### **3. Review of Agenda**

- Members reviewed and approved the meeting agenda.

#### **4. New Members**

- The ACMC is currently missing one member to be appointed by the Minister of Environment. Karla explained that as per the *Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area* (IIBA) new members are appointed from the community's Community Land and Resources Committee (CLARC). After checking with QIA, Karla informed the ACMC that two CLARC members are currently not members of the ACMC, Leah Atadjuat and Joshua Arreak. Both Leah and Joshua were out of town. The members decided to ask both if they were interested in joining the ACMC when they were back in town before making a recommendation to the Minister.

## 5. Review and approval of operating guidelines

- Karla read through the Asungsungaat ACMC's Operating Procedures, Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy. As per the Asungsungaat ACMC's Operating Procedures, the ACMC agreed to review and sign the codes and policies on an annual basis.
- The ACMC suggested the following edits to the ACMC operating procedures:
  - Update sections 3 and 4 on membership of the committee and length of terms to align with the new version of the IIBA.
  - Add a section stating that the elder and youth representative do not have voting rights
  - Add in a section regarding required attendance at all ACMC meetings unless a member has a valid reason for missing the meeting, especially for travel meetings.
  - Section 13 should say "... the ACMC Chair and Vice-Chair will bring this to the attention of the member verbally"
- Members approved and signed the three documents with the above noted changes to the operating procedures.

## 6. Summary of changes resulting from the renegotiation of the *Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the Nunavut Settlement Area (IIBA)*

- Karla informed the ACMC that as per the original IIBA, the Parties to the IIBA (Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the 3 Regional Inuit Association and Environment and Climate Change Canada) renegotiated and signed the new IIBA in 2016. The new IIBA will be in effect until 2023.
- Karla distributed copies of the IIBA to the ACMC members.
- Karla highlighted some of the main changes in the 2016-2013 IIBA, including:
  - Added Section 3.2.4(d) - in the event that a CLARC member is not available to be appointed, other members may be appointed by the Minister and the relevant RIA that are not CLARC members with the agreement of the Parties.
  - Change to Section 3.2.7 – Now reads “ACMC members may retain their positions after their CLARC or CBC appointment ends. The terms of ACMC members shall be three (3) years.” Use to be that term of members was the same as their remaining term as members of their CLARC.
  - Edit to Section 3.4.1 - Now says that the NWA Strategy and Action Plan will be developed within the term of the IIBA (didn’t have a timeline in the past). Also now says that Strategy will be completed prior to the establishment of any new NWAs.
  - Edit to Section 7.2.3 – NTI has now developed criteria for the Inuit Tourism Providers Fund.
  - Edit to Section 10.2.2 – added in subsection (e) which states that all research permits shall include a requirement that the researcher be accompanied by a guide where deemed appropriate by an ACMC during the research permitting process.
  - Edit to Section 12.3 – the compensation paid to the Hunters and Trappers Organization in the affected community in the event of an emergency, illegal or accidental kill of a polar bear or grizzly bear by a CWS employee, agent or

contractor, or any other person authorized by CWS to enter a NWA or MBS was increased from \$5000.00 to \$20,000.00. As well, the new IIBA states that CWS will pay this compensation from its own department funds instead of from IIBA Implementation Funds set aside for this purpose.

- Edit to Section 15.2. – NTI now administers the IIBA implementation funding with the exception of the funding for the Inuit Field Research Assistant program and Inuit Student Mentorship program, instead of the CWS. This includes the funding set aside for the operation of the ACMCs. Therefore, NTI will now be paying the invoices for expenses related to ACMC business.
- Karla explained the seven year Funding Implementation Schedule in Schedule 15-1.
- The changes to the IIBA were discussed.
  - Members expressed concerns about polar bear defense kills in the MBS and felt that all tourist and researchers authorized to visit the area should have an Inuit Bear Monitor with them. It is important that the bear is properly butchered in a timely manner so that the meat and pelt does not go to waste. Lisa explained that not all CWS research projects have the budget to hire a bear monitor and instead prefer to hire Inuit to participate more directly in the research activities, such as an Inuit Field Research Assistant. It was mentioned that since Bylot Island is close to the community, in the event of a defense kill, the HTO or Wildlife Officer should be able to get to the bear before the meat and pelt is wasted.
  - The members were informed that NTI is currently working on cultural resource inventories for Arviat, Cape Dorset and Gjoa Haven.
  - Karla informed the members that she will be delivering a presentation on the IFRA and ISM programs to the high school on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. Update on the proposed Lancaster Sound National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA)

- Karla provided an update on the status of the proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA. The Lancaster Sound NMCA Feasibility Assessment Steering Committee are completing their report which will be submitted to the Ministers of Environment for Canada and Nunavut and the President of QIA in the very near future. This report will include a summary of the studies and consultations undertaken with respect to the NMCA and include recommendations on whether the NMCA is desirable, as well as on potential boundaries. Canada, Nunavut and the QIA will then make a decision with respect to those recommendations, likely sometime in the summer. The official proposed boundaries are still the ones proposed by the federal government for consultation in 2010. However, the Steering Committee is also considering the boundary option put forward by QIA, a boundary which is considerably larger than the 2010 federal proposal.
- The ACMC discussed the proposed NMCA:
  - Jimmy informed the ACMC that the HTO is not supportive of the proposed boundary because it may interfere with future commercial fishing opportunities close to Pond Inlet. The HTO would like Navy Board Inlet and Eclipse Sound excluded from the boundary.
  - Paniloo said he would like to see an even bigger boundary that protects narwhal migrations.
  - Jimmy asked if the ACMC has the authority to make recommendations on the proposed NMCA, including its boundaries. Karla said the ACMC could make recommendations since the boundary overlaps with the MBS and can ask the

Steering Committee to provide updates on an ongoing basis. A letter to the Steering Committee was added to the list of Action Items.

#### **8. Review new permit application: Bear Witness Arctic Expedition**

- The ACMC reviewed a permit application submitted by David Reid to circumnavigate around Bylot Island by ski in April 2017 in celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- The ACMC approved the permit application with the following recommendations:
  - Inform the applicant that the proposed travel route goes through areas that are known to have ice conditions unsuitable for travel and areas with high polar bear abundance. Therefore, for safety reasons, the applicant should consult with hunters familiar with the area before departure.
  - That an Inuit guide from Pond Inlet accompany the expedition team.
  - The permit application states that one of the goals of the expedition is to bring attention and raise awareness to the Lancaster Sound area. The ACMC would like clarification on what message the expedition team will be promoting and if possible, the ACMC would like to have the opportunity to review and provide comment on any publications or media releases produced by Bear Witness following their expedition.
  - That no archaeological sites be disturbed as a result of this expedition.
  - The ACMC asks that the applicant provide a complimentary copy of any film and photographs produced by Bear Witness Expedition to the ACMC.
  - That the applicant provides a list of wildlife sightings in the MBS to the ACMC.
  - That the applicant provides a copy of its annual report in both English and Inuktitut to the ACMC.

#### **9. Asungasungaat ACMC logo**

- The ACMC reviewed two versions of the draft logo designed by Diana Curtis.
- The ACMC decided that the ACMC should be called “Asungasungaat ACMC” instead of “Asungasungaaq ACMC” (hoodoos instead of hoodoo).
- The ACMC requested the following edits to the draft logo:
  - Prefer the logo with the yellow hoodoos but with the gold ring
  - Change the name of the ACMC to “Asungasungaat”
  - Correct the Inuktitut translation
  - Ask the designer to try to make the hoodoos more realistic by adding shading or lines

#### **10. Confirmation of choice of name for Bylot Island MBS**

- ECCC would like to confirm the traditional Inuktitut names for MBSs and NWAs in Nunavut. ECCC can then put the traditional names in legislation during the next round of amendments to the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* and *Wildlife Area Regulations*.
- The ACMC discussed traditional names for Bylot Island that has been used in the past, including:
  - Mittimataliup Akianga – meaning “the island across from Pond Inlet”
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - meaning “Place where Button Point is located”
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - meaning “Big Island”

- The ACMC decided that for the time being they would like to refer to the MBS as:
  - Sanirutialu (Mittimataliup Akia) Migratory Bird Sanctuary
  - This means “the whole island across from Pond Inlet”
  - The ACMC would like to consult with the community on this traditional name before making it official in the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM

## **Day 2 – February 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **Attendees:**

Enookie Inuarak - Chair  
 Karla Letto – Vice-chair  
 Paniloo Sangoya - Member  
 Elijah Panikpakoochoo - Member  
 Jimmy Pitseolak – Member (present for afternoon meeting only)  
 Lisa Pirie-Dominix - ECCC  
 Titus Arnakallak - Interpreter  
 Elizabeth Quasa - Youth Representative

Meeting started at 9:15AM

### **11. Review Draft Inventory**

- Karla gave a presentation on the first draft of the “Inventory of Documents and Identification of Information Gaps Relevant to the Management of Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary”. The inventory document was drafted by Arluk Consulting in March 2015.
- The presentation covered: ECCC’s protected areas network, summary of Bylot Island MBS (size, description, land ownership, historical background, etc.), cultural (e.g., archaeological sites and traditional and subsistence land uses) and ecological resources (e.g., wildlife, wildlife habitat, and important bird areas), and identified gaps for the ACMC to work on.
- Comments from the ACMC members:
  - The seabirds (murres and kittiwakes) go back to the same cliffs every year.
  - There are a lot of geese on Bylot Island right now. Geese use to nest near the low point area and beyond but nesting site changed after Goose Camp was established.
  - The ACMC found the wording in the section on “History of People on Bylot Island” to be inaccurate and would like more information on how Inuit helped early European explorers. There needs to be more Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit incorporated into these sections (e.g., navigation of Northwest Passage was based on IQ).
  - The IOL at Button Point is used for hunting and camping
  - Ropes at Cape Graham Moore were replaced by Joe Panikpakoochoo in 1965. But nobody knows who the first person was to install them. The ropes are used to collect seabird eggs. You have to have your back against the rock wall to climb up. Very few people still use them because they are old and very dangerous.

- There are not as many fox harvested now. When they are trapped it is usually in October and November when the fur is thicker. Trappers start trapping Fox as soon as the ice forms.
- More species of birds are coming to Bylot Island. E.g., Canada Geese arrive before Snow Geese.
- The list of breeding birds has some missing species. Titus has a list of birds that were developed by the ACMC at a past meeting.
- The list of mammals should include species that can occasionally be seen in the area such as minke whale, humpback whale and peary caribou.
- The ACMC discussed options for moving forward on filling the information gaps, including:
  - Include funds for a contractor in the 2017-18 ACMC budget to fill gaps and clean up inventory
  - Collect data on subsistence harvesting in the MBS – The ACMC would like to do a mapping exercise at the next meeting to collect this information from its members. May collect more information from community during community meeting.
  - The seabird population data in the inventory was dated. Karla will contact biologists working in the area for updated information. Future surveys may need to be included as an action item in the management plan.
  - Look for information on how Inuit were involved in the establishment of the MBS.
  - Get community input on invasive species

## **12. Review Bylot Island map for management plan**

- The ACMC did a mapping exercise by recording traditional names for places on Bylot Island to be included in the management plan.

## **13. Presentation by WWF Canada on their World Heritage Site application “The Last Ice Area”**

- Paul Crowley, the Vice-President (Arctic) of WWF Canada, joined the meeting by Skype to give a presentation on WWF’s World Heritage Site application called “The Last Ice Area”
- Paul provided an overview of the UNESCO World Heritage Site application process. The Canadian government has opened up its list of tentative World Heritage Sites. All applications must be in by January 27th, 2017. These “list openings” only take place about once every ten years. Once sites are on the tentative list, they are put forward by Canada (though not all at once) over successive years for international approval by UNESCO, the United Nations organization that must approve World Heritage Sites. WWF is asking Parks Canada to add “The Last Ice Area” to their tentative list (first step in the process).
- The site proposed by WWF Canada as “The Last Ice Area” is located around Canada’s High Arctic Islands and northwest Greenland. Scientists predict that this is the area where the last summer sea ice will persist based on climate and sea ice projection scenarios.
- World Heritage Sites cannot be proposed without some form of protection already existing for the nominated sites. Therefore, the proposed World Heritage Site only includes:

- Existing protected Areas that overlap with the future projected location of summer sea ice: Quttinirpaaq National Park; Sirmilik National Park; Qausuittuq National Park; Nirjutiqavvik National Wildlife Area; Prince Leopold Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary; Seymour Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary; **Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary**.
- Areas proposed for protection or special management under the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan that overlap with the future projected location of summer sea ice (including the North Water Polyna).
- The proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA.
- The application process requires that any application be supported by local people and WWF would not advance any proposal that did not have such support. Therefore, WWF asked Asungasungaat ACMC if they would support this application (will be doing the same for other protected area co-management groups).
- The ACMC discussed the application and voiced several concerns, such as:
  - The name “The Last Ice Area” could be wrongly interpreted as the area with the last remaining sea ice at this time. The ACMC felt that this name could cause alarm for people, especially those down south, and draw negative attention to traditional activities such as Polar bear harvesting.
  - The designation is not compatible with oil and gas exploration. The ACMC felt that this needed to be further explored before they could support the application to ensure that their support is not blocking economic development opportunities for the community.
  - Having another designation, especially an international designation, may draw more attention to the area. The ACMC is already concerned with the increasing number of cruise ships visiting the area and the impacts of tourism on wildlife. The ACMC is afraid that the World Heritage Site designation will promote even more visitation to the MBS.
  - Without knowing how the community as a whole felt about the Designation, it is hard for the ACMC to support it. The ACMC recommends that WWF Canada present this application to the community, not just the ACMC.
- The ACMC decided by majority vote (1 support, 3 against, 1 abstain) to send a letter to WWF Canada stating that the ACMC does not support this application at this time and that the ACMC encourages WWF to consult with the larger public before proceeding.

#### **14. Group Photo**

- The ACMC took a group photo for the 2016-2017 annual report.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM

#### **Day 3 – February 9<sup>th</sup>**

##### **Attendees:**

Enookie Inuarak - Chair  
 Karla Letto – Vice-chair  
 Paniloo Sangoya - Member  
 Elijah Panikpakoochoo - Member  
 Jimmy Pitseolak - Member  
 Lisa Pirie-Dominix - ECCC  
 Titus Arnakallak - Interpreter

Meeting started at 1:15 PM

#### **15. Logistics for a site visit**

- Karla explained that each ACMC will conduct a site visit to their protected area. Due to limited funding, only one ACMC can conduct a site visit per year. Most ACMCs have already done their site visits. The Coral Harbour ACMC will be doing theirs this year. The Asungsungaat can try to conduct their site visit in 2018. To prepare for the visit, including putting together a budget, the ACMC discussed logistics for a visit to the MBS.
- The ACMC would prefer to go in late May/early June since this will be the easiest time to travel there and still see the birds.
- The ACMC would like to have a multi-day trip to take advantage of our time there. The ACMC suggests 1-2 nights. Members have tents that we can set up near Goose Camp.
- The ACMC discussed transportation options including helicopter, boat or skidoo if we go in early spring. The ACMC would prefer helicopter. However, a boat would be better for viewing the seabirds but may be challenging due to floating ice chunks.
- The ACMC discussed what they would like to see/do during the site visit:
  - Meet with researchers at Goose Camp to see what they are doing;
  - Assess gaps in the Inventory document (e.g., condition of landing strips, check out sites where cruise ship tourist visit and where zodiacs land);
  - See key archaeological sites (Button Point, Cape Hay ship wreck and cabin, sod houses located near Atikittuq);
  - Assess infrastructure; and
  - Conduct interviews with members out on the land.

#### **16. Presentation of Inventory to general public and stakeholders**

- The ACMC decided that they needed more time to clean up the Inventory document and fill some gaps before holding a public meeting. The public meeting will likely not take place until 2018-19.

#### **17. Review 2015-16 Annual Report and items to include in 2016-17 Annual Report**

- The ACMC reviewed and approved the 2015-2016 Asungsungaat ACMC Annual Report.
- Items to include in the 2015-2016 Annual Reports are:
  - Summary of February meeting
  - Memorial for Ikey Milton
  - Update on new members and new member training
  - Participation in logo

#### **18. Draft workplan and budget for 2017-2018**

- The ACMC drafted and approved its 2017-18 workplan and budget.
- Workplan activities include:
  - Conduct two face-to-face meetings in Pond Inlet (professional fees, room rental, hospitality, interpretation, translation of meeting materials);
  - Training in Iqaluit for one new ACMC members (professional fees, flight, accommodations, per diem and incidentals);
  - Contract fees for Aarluk Consulting to clean up the inventory and fill gaps;
  - Order promotional items/swag for the ACMC;

- Design fees to finalize the ACMC logo;
- Work by the Chairperson between meetings (include one full day for Sirmilik JPMC permit review meeting); and
- Communication planning (publication, printing and distribution of annual reports).

#### **19. Next Meeting Date**

- The ACMC agreed upon the week of May 29<sup>th</sup> for its next meeting
- The Next meeting will include:
  - Review of 2017 permit applications for activities in Bylot Island MBS (for areas that do not overlap with Sirmilik National Park)
  - Management Plan threats and challenges workshop
  - Follow up on action items from February 2017 meeting

Meeting adjourned at 3:35PM

#### **Action Items**

1. The ACMC will need to recommend one new member to the Minister for appointment to the ACMC. Karla will draft a letter to the CLO asking for a recommendation/nomination from the CLARC.
2. Karla will make the requested changes to the ACMC Operating Procedures and present the changes to the ACMC at the next meeting.
3. Karla will draft a letter to the Lancaster Sound NMCA Steering Committee asking the Steering Committee to keep the ACMC informed on the status of the proposed NMCA.
4. Karla will draft a letter of support with recommendations from the Asungsungaat ACMC for David Reid's permit application "Bear Witness Arctic Expedition".
5. Karla will contact Diana Curtis and request edits to the ACMC logo. Karla will present the second version of the logo to the ACMC at its next meeting.
6. Karla will draft a letter to WWF explaining the ACMC's concerns with its World Heritage Site application for "The Last Ice Area" and state that the ACMC is not supportive of the application at this time. The ACMC would like the Chair to review and sign this letter and copy the Minister.
7. Karla will bring 4 large maps of Bylot Island to the next meeting for the ACMC's harvesting mapping exercise. The ACMC would like to map areas by season.
8. Karla will work with ECCC biologists to obtain the results from the most recent bird surveys conducted on Bylot Island.

9. ACMC agreed that Enookie will represent the ACMC at the Sirmilik National Park Joint Parks Management Committee permit review meetings. If Enookie is unable to attend, Jimmy will be his replacement.
10. Karla will draft a letter to Parks Canada reiterating the Asungasungaat ACMC's concerns and requests in its May 25<sup>th</sup> 2015 letter to Parks Canada regarding the ACMC's review of the Sirmilik National Park Management Plan including: 1) The ACMC wishes to be consulted prior to Parks Canada identifying any aircraft landing sites in the MBS; and 2) The ACMC wishes to be engaged in discussions with respect to cruise ship access (anchoring/landing). In addition, the letter will invite a representative from Parks Canada to attend a future meeting to discuss these concerns.
11. Karla will put together a list of swag/promotion item options for the ACMC.
12. Karla will draft Asungasungaat ACMC 2016-17 Annual Report for approval by the ACMC.