

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S COUNCIL FOR MARINE MAMMALS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

July 14, 2016

Minutes

The teleconference of the Executive Committee was called to order on July 14, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. by Chairman Mike Miller. Attending the teleconference were:

Chairman Mike Miller
Member Taqulik Hepa
Member Molly Chythlook
Exec Dir Carol Torsen
NOAA Protected Resources, Jon Kurland

Taqulik reported that they have had a very good marine mammal hunting summer so far. The ice comes and goes. Huge ice pack of walrus went by Barrow.

Chairman began discussion on setting priorities on co-management. Setting priorities shouldn't be done annually according to Solicitor. Since we're not going to be revisiting priorities year-after-year, we should do good job on priorities at fall meeting.

Jon Kurland added that the idea is to have the priorities be broad enough to encompass everything all ANOs think they want to accomplish, and manage priorities year-after-year and not change them. So if an ANO can't use all its funding in a given year, it makes it easier to leave that funding over to the next year, providing more flexibility to ANOs.

Peggy forwarded comments re concern that priorities have been getting too detailed, and was leaning towards simpler and broader statements about what might be better.

Taqulik commented that her experience has been that simpler and broader makes it easier for grantees to actually accomplish tasks. Grantees continuously being audited so very detailed priorities limit accomplishments. Too much detail is time consuming and a lot more work.

Molly agrees with Taqulik. When instructions too specific, makes more work for grantees because need to justify detailed information presented in proposals. The broader the better.

Carol agrees that priorities should be broader because we're all different in our needs and wants and we can portray our proposals easier if priorities are more broad.

Chairman Mike commented that moving up the meeting to October might cause a lot of groups to not get a chance to bring their concept of this issue to IPCoMM. We should take priority discussion results down to as few words as possible and still have it broad based.

Jon Kurland suggested two paths: 1) The executive committee propose some way to boil down language that NMFS had put on the table previously or another approach: 2) Jon do something based on general sentiment that simpler is better. He could work with NMFS and propose something to the executive committee in advance of the meeting.

Chairman Mike suggested both sides come up with something that both sides would be happy with. Just reference co-management because it encompasses so much.

Taqulik commented that if cooperative agreements have broader statements and more funding it would force more communication to talk about details between the agencies and the ANO of what we want to accomplish together. It should be viewed as a team effort. We need more productive communication as to what we want to accomplish together as co-management partners. Working together as a team, we work with the same goals – conserving, providing opportunity for our people to harvest but identifying what those details are through more communication between the individuals that are responsible for managing the cooperative agreements is important.

Jon Kurland agreed. However, a couple co-management groups suggested fairly specific language to include as priorities. So it's kind of a balance where some of the groups seem interested and some would like it a little more general. Got to try to navigate that balance the best we can.

Chairman Mike commented that now that we can do that process with everybody in the room at this meeting that we can agree to a little bit simpler version.

Jon Kurland asked if it would be helpful for NMFS to propose a little simpler approach and send it back to Mike.

Chairman Mike agreed. Maybe saying just a couple sentences instead of many and still saying the same thing. That's probably where we want to end up instead of getting too ultra-specific.

Molly thinks somebody needs to compile this in writing and make sure both groups will know that this is something new or different that we need to pay attention to.

Chairman Mike commented that we need to do fairly good outreach with the groups prior to the meeting just to understand where we're at on this and a little bit different tilt on things that we're not going to be changing things every year so this is kind of important this time around. Let other members know there's a way to simplify things that cover what they're about as well which would help so we could try to get that squared away before October. It will be on the agenda and we will have some discussion on some final version of priorities that everybody agrees to at the October meeting.

FWS and other updates followed. Chairman Mike, Taqulik, Molly and Carol held general discussion on Alaska Nanuuq Commission. The general consensus seems to be that ANC and FWS are still discussing details of this issue.