MEETING MINUTES

**Topic:** Indigenous Stewardship and Protected Areas Working Group

**Date/Time:** 2:00-3:30 pm ET, October 30th, 2024

**Coordinates:** Virtual Conference Call

**Chair:** Colleen Parker

**Attendees:**

Joel Heath - Arctic Eider Society

Charles Hookimaw - Attawapiskat

Martine Giangioppi - Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Catherine Capkun-Huot - Environment and Climate Change Canada

Manshari Shejwalkar - Environment and Climate Change Canada

Michelle LeBlanc-Harvard - Government of Nunavut

Laura Harris - Government of Nunavut

Graham Sorenson - Birds Canada

Dan Duckert - KO Council Tribe

Erin Keenan - WWF Canada

Susan Dean - Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission

Janelle Kennedy - Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission

Ryan Barry - Hudson Bay Consortium Secretariat

Jackie Kidd - Hudson Bay Consortium Secretariat

**Agenda:**

1. Opening Remarks & Introductions

2. Presentation - Erin Keenan, WWF Canada

* Investing in Nunavut’s Blue Conservation Economy
* Funded through CanNor - economic analysis looking at area-based protection measures in Nunavut that are ostensibly conservation efforts but have simultaneously stimulated Nunavut economic benefits
* Income that’s generated from conserving and repairing the environment - can vary from food harvesting to culture to integrated marine spatial planning
* Inuit have been practicing a version of a blue economy for years through land use
* 4-season hunting outfit costs ~$70,000 and the median wage in 2020 was ~$30,000 (Nunavut)
* Country food economy $200M/year (to replace in Nunavut)
* Return on investment of $27M - Guardians Programs, which are fairly new
* Co-beneftis, or social return on investment, facilitating the transmission of knowledge, language, providing opportunities for youth, intergenerational relationships, etc.
* The three areas that would have the most economic and social outcomes are: country food harvesting, Inuit Guardians and Tourism & Recreation
* Various investments needs for each of these areas
* Area-based Conservation - healthy habitats that generate local benefits
* Aqviqtuuq (<https://aqviqtuuq.ca/>)- goal to establish an Inuit Protected and Conserved Area - includes marine and terrestrial areas; Guardians program and country food component
* $12M locally (created 20 jobs in a community of 1000 people), providing services like environmental monitoring, food security, knowledge exchange, creating opportunities for sharing traditional skills
* Focus on providing access to country food to the community, then regionally, and perhaps outside of Nunavut
* Textiles and clothing - processing skins (byproduct of the harvesting) generating more job creation
* Tourism - potential value, $382,000 locally to be generated from sport hunting or targeted experiences and outfitting
* Broaden the idea of what economic development can look like in Nunavut, and in other areas across Inuit Nunangat
* Michelle - a couple of case studies were mentioned, are you able to share them
* Erin - overview report will be shared with this group, which goes into the other two case studies
* Michelle - Is there a methodology used to get the numbers?
* Erin - yes, and the methodologies are cited in the report
* Susan - a big document that isn’t accessible, this video you shared is so much more interesting
* Erin - Arctic Connection produced the video, and the video has been very well received, a very efficient way to communicate information about the project
* Laura - does the overview document look at contributions from the GDP?
* Erin - there’s an assessment to overall GDP, but rather it’s broken down into more individual aspects of conservation economies - would be interesting to see a GDP related number though
* Martine - Is there long-time funding for the Guardian Program?
* Erin - medium-term agreement with DFO, have other funders as well that are longer-term. Their long-term goal is to have the area designated and then have an IIBA that would get long-term funding from the government for the Guardians Program
* Colleen - Knowledge Exchange Initiative
* Erin - it wasn’t focused only on Blue Economy (which was one of the sessions) - conservation economy: the need for long-term funding
* Laura - is Project Finance for Permanence being looked at?
* Erin - this report looks at where funds can be invested, rather than the providers of funding. Philanthropic dollars is something we are talking about to support these kinds of projects long-term

3. Initiatives of Interest and Updates

* Graham - funding opportunity <https://westonfoundation.ca/grant_call/northern-conservation-program/>
* Laura - <https://www.qia.ca/qikiqtani-regional-conservation-approach/>
* Joel - had a meeting with the Community-driven Research Network to reflect on the progress since it began around a decade ago; want to protect the overlap areas between Nunavik and Nunavut - interest in taking the next steps to join Arqviliit and Qikiqtait together; how stewardship and governance needs to work in the overlap areas

4. Roundtable Update

* February 25, 26, & 27th in Montreal, focusing on Community-driven Research and Monitoring
* Developing the draft agenda with the working groups
* Please get in touch with jackie.kidd@hudsonbayconsortium.com to register for the event; spaces are limited and filling up quickly
* Martine - it would be good for the Roundtable to hear from Aqviqtuuq about how there program is working, and a space for communities to ask them questions

5. Date for Next Meeting

* Potential to have a follow-up at ArcticNet, to be determined and communicated to the group