



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité consultatif
pour l'environnement
de la Baie-James

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MINUTES OF THE 58TH MEETING
OF THE JAMES BAY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

ADOPTED

DATE : December 13, 1990

LOCATION : Cree Regional Administration
1 Place Ville Marie
Suite 3438
Montréal, Québec

PRESENT : Hubert Marcotte, Chairman, Canada
Jean-Guy Charest, Canada
Robert Daigneault, Québec
Alan Penn, CRA
Paul Wilkinson, CRA
Willie Iserhoff, CRA
Bernard Labonté, HFTCC
Hervé Chatagnier, Secretary

ABSENT : James Bobbish, CRA
Louis-Edmond Hamelin, Canada
Pierre Marchand, Canada
Gilles Frisque, Québec
Alain Soucy, Québec
Marie Lessard, Québec

PARTICIPANTS: Raymond Houle, MENVIQ



1. PRELIMINARIES AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. The following agenda was proposed by Alan Penn, seconded by Paul Wilkinson and adopted unanimously.

1. Preliminaries and adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the 54th, 55th, 56th and 57th meetings
3. Internal management: secretariat and Committee operations
4. Five-year forest management plans: adoption of the Committee report
5. Land use plan: adoption of the Committee report
6. Draft amendments to the Act respecting ecological reserves
7. Varia
8. Date and location of next meeting

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 54TH, 55TH, 56TH AND 57TH MEETINGS

Since only the French version of the minutes of the 54th meeting were available, it was decided to carry the adoption of the minutes over to the next Committee meeting.

3. INTERNAL MANAGEMENT: SECRETARIAT AND COMMITTEE OPERATIONS

Several members expressed concern over Committee operations in past months. Reference was made to the procedure for drawing up recommendations regarding Bill C-78 and for analyzing the Great Whale project assessment procedure. In both instances, Committee members did not have an opportunity to give their viewpoints adequately given the excessively tight deadlines for submitting their comments. Moreover, given the urgent nature of the Great Whale issue, many members indicated that they were disappointed that Committee meetings were called at the last minute, meaning that many members were unable to participate in these meetings and, as a result, in drawing up Committee recommendations.

The Chairman voiced his surprise at learning that a Committee member had, on his own initiative, sent a letter to the clerk of the Bill C-78 study committee. He indicated that the Chairman should see and sign all official Committee correspondence to avoid a chaotic situation. Furthermore, the Chairman expressed his surprise at having been informed by the media of the contents of a letter sent to him by the Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees, but which he had not seen. The Secretary stated that he had not received this letter either. CRA representatives tabled an unsigned copy of the letter in question and explained that there must have been some confusion as to its mailing.

After some discussion, the members agreed that the Committee's operation should be studied and asked the Secretary to include this item in the next meeting's agenda.

As regards the Committee secretariat, the Chairman tabled a draft letter addressed to Yves-L. Pagé, MENVIQ stating that the Committee Secretary would no longer be available to act as COMEX secretary, given the greater-than-anticipated workload at the JBACE. Members will recall that a few months ago, Mr. Pagé had written to the Committee asking whether the Secretary could provide secretarial services for COMEX. The Committee had agreed on the condition that the Secretary's JBACE work not be affected.

The members discussed the possibility of no longer sharing the Secretary with COMEX. Some members stated that since the Committee had so few resources, there was no reason to share the Secretary with COMEX. They felt it was up to MENVIQ and not the Committee to provide a secretary for COMEX. Other members felt that COMEX should not be penalized for the lack of resources currently allocated for the committees. The Secretary and certain members explained that there were advantages to having a member of the secretariat participate in the work of all committees: it is a means of enhancing information exchanges between the committees.

After discussion, the Chairman moved to vote on the possibility of withdrawing the Secretary from the COMEX secretariat to ensure that he could work full time for the JBACE and COMEV secretariats. If such was the case, the JBACE would advise the COMEX and the MENVIQ ahead of time.

This proposal was moved by Jean-Guy Charest, seconded by Robert Daigneault and rejected based on the following vote adopted under paragraph 22.3.4.C of the JBNQA:

For:	3
Against:	4
Abstained:	0

It was, nevertheless, decided that the Chairman should write to the Minister of the Environment stressing the urgent need for providing the Committee with adequate human resources as soon as possible.

4. FIVE-YEAR FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS: ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Alan Penn tabled a draft letter addressed to the Minister for Forests, Albert Côté. It was the English version of a draft letter which was part of the Committee's recommendations on the first two years of the five-year forest management plans as tabled by MER in December 1989. The draft letter includes the principal elements of the report submitted by the consultant selected by the Committee for that purpose.

Members will note that the draft letter was not adopted by the entire sub-committee mandated to prepare recommendations on the five-year plans. Mr. Penn was asked to submit the letter to all sub-committee members for adoption and technical revision. Once the letter has been adopted by the sub-committee, it will be submitted to the Chairman, who will study it and decide whether it is necessary to submit it to the Committee again for adoption.

5. LAND USE PLAN: ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Chairman had invited Raymond Houle, MENVIQ Forestry Engineer, to share his view of the contents of the land use plan with the Committee. Mr. Houle pointed out the elements usually found in a land use plan as well as certain characteristics pertaining to boreal forests. According to Mr. Houle, a land use plan is designed primarily to define the main use of existing resources. For the "forest production zone", the land use map is used solely to determine which portion of the area will be used primarily for logging operations. The plan is not used to determine how these operations will be carried out.

Mr. Houle explained why the land use map does not indicate mining development zones. According to him, it is difficult, if not impossible, to integrate potential mining operations into land resource zoning.

As concerns the absence of archeological zoning, Mr. Houle explained that it would be very difficult to integrate zoning data into the zoning plan since archeological sites are very small and are scattered throughout the territory.

Alan Penn tabled a draft letter addressed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Claude Ryan, containing possible Committee recommendations on the land use plan. He informed the Committee that this letter had not been ratified by the ad hoc sub-committee composed of Robert Daigneault, Paul Wilkinson and Marie Lessard. After some discussion, it was decided that all members would be asked to send their comments on the draft letter as soon as possible. A second version of the letter would be prepared by the sub-committee which would take the comments into account, and would be tabled before the next meeting. Finally, the Chairman was asked to write to the Minister to inform him that the Committee's recommendations would be submitted soon.

6. DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE ACT RESPECTING ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

On November 20, the Committee received a request from Léopold Gaudreau, Director, Conservation and Ecological Heritage, MENVIQ, concerning draft modifications to the Act respecting ecological reserves. The Committee was asked to comment on the proposed amendments before the end of February 1991.

Mr. Houle reviewed the main points of the Act and the proposed amendments. Given his expertise in the area, the Chairman asked Mr. Houle to prepare draft recommendations that could be submitted to the Committee for comment before the next meeting.

7. VARIA

The members appointed by the CRA asked the Chairman to ensure that the following points be included in the agenda of the next meeting:

- the Green Plan
- committee language policy
- assessment of the EM-1 hydroelectric project
- the NBR hydroelectric project.

8. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held January 17 in Québec City in the offices of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

HERVÉ CHATAGNIER
Secretary