



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité consultatif
pour l'environnement
de la Baie-James

ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ
ᑭᑭᑭ
ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ

Siège social:
Baie-du-Poste
Lac Mistassini, via Chibougamau, Québec
G0W 1C0

Secrétariat et correspondance générale:
Édifice Marly
3900, rue de Marly, 4^e étage,
boîte 50,
Sainte-Foy (Québec)
G1X 4E4
(418) 643-8388 ou 7974

**MINUTES OF THE 71st MEETING
OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

ADOPTED

DATE: June 17, 1992

TIME: 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

LOCATION: Bonaventure Hilton International Hotel
Salle Saint-Laurent
1 Place Bonaventure
Montréal, Québec

PRESENT: Robert Daigneault, Chairman, Québec
Marie Lessard, Québec
Alain Soucy, Québec
Gilles Frisque, Québec
Paul F. Wilkinson, CRA
Alan Penn, CRA
Hubert Marcotte, Vice-Chairman, Canada
Jean-Guy Charest, Canada
René Boudreault, Canada
Éric Chainé, Technical Advisor, JBACE

ABSENT: James Bobbish, CRA
Willie Iserhoff, CRA
Pierre Marchand, Canada
Hervé Chatagnier, Secretary, JBACE

OBSERVERS: Yvan Vigneault
Michel Beaulieu, item 4, MENVIQ
Claude St-Charles, item 4, Environment Canada



1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed René Boudreault, newly appointed to replace Louis-Edmond Hamelin as member for Canada.

The Chairman informed the Committee that his professional duties leave a limited amount of time for JBACE-related activities. He then referred members to the Committee's letter to Pierre Paradis concerning remuneration of Québec-appointed members.

The Committee was also informed of two Executive Sub-Committee meetings which were held on April 28 and May 4, 1992. The following agenda was then adopted.

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the 69th and 70th meetings
3. Proxy form
4. Renewal of Québec-Canada agreement on JBACE financing
5. Review of the environmental and social protection regime established under Section 22 of the JBNQA
6. Environmental impact assessment of the Great Whale project
7. Consultation on Hydro-Québec's development plan
8. Urgent environmental issues
9. Five-year forest management plans
10. Varia
11. Date and location of next meeting.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 69TH AND 70TH MEETINGS

The minutes of the 69th and 70th meetings were adopted with amendments.

3. PROXY FORM

The Committee members in attendance signed individual proxy forms to be used if they are unable to attend a meeting.

4. RENEWAL OF THE QUÉBEC-CANADA AGREEMENT ON JBACE SECRETARIAT FINANCING

On June 5, 1992, André Harvey, Assistant Deputy Minister for Sustainable Development at the Ministère de l'Environnement du Québec (MENVIQ), and Jean-Pierre Gauthier, Regional Director General at Environment Canada, informed the Committee in writing that they had recently initiated discussions to renew the federal-provincial administrative agreement on the financing of the JBACE secretariat. The letter also stated their desire to consult the Committee to solicit its views on the secretariat within the context of renewing the agreement.

After discussing its objectives in terms of the secretariat's functions, the Committee welcomed Michel Beaulieu, of MENVIQ's Direction des affaires nordiques et autochtones, and Claude St-Charles, of Environment Canada's Environmental Assessment and Northern Québec Northern Branch, who were attending the meeting to obtain the Committee's views on the administration of the JBACE secretariat. Mr. St-Charles explained the content of the administrative agreement dated March 31, 1987, which expired on September 1, 1988, and tabled a document explaining the JBACE's administration and a diagram outlining the process for renewing the agreement.

The Committee reiterated its previously defined wishes, i.e.:

- that the JBACE have greater autonomy in its management;
- that the JBACE have greater administrative flexibility in the use of funds;
- that the secretariat be independent of MENVIQ;
- that the JBACE have administrative control over its secretariat;
- that it be possible to obtain additional funds for special projects.

The Committee pointed out that the amounts earmarked for operating expenses are modest given the increase in JBACE activities over the past two years, the Committee's legal mandate to study the five-year forest management plans, and its right to hire the services of specialists.

A number of options open to the JBACE were identified:

- that the JBACE's budget be transferred to the program of MENVIQ advisory bodies and that the JBACE operate in a manner similar to that of the Conseil de la conservation et de l'environnement or the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement;
- that the JBACE be administered in a manner similar to that of the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee;
- that the JBACE be administered in a manner similar to that of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee;
- that the status quo be maintained.

Nevertheless, the Committee remains open to any other option which seems expedient. Mr. Beaulieu explained that the options in question must first be studied by MENVIQ to determine whether they are feasible from an administrative and legal point of view. It was therefore agreed that the options should be studied, the constraints related to each one identified, and the results forwarded to the Committee by the end of August 1992. An official request will be forwarded to Mr. Harvey shortly. The Committee thanked Mr. Beaulieu and Mr. St-Charles for taking the time to consult the JBACE on the renewal of the administrative agreement.

5. REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PROTECTION REGIME ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 22 OF THE JBNOA

The Committee discussed the various aspects of the regime that warrant special attention during the review. The three member parties of the JBACE were invited to submit specific proposals in writing. The Committee also expressed the desire to invite the various partners affected by the regime to submit their comments and suggestions on its review. The secretariat was asked to write a draft letter, to be tabled at the next meeting, requesting such submissions.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE GREAT WHALE PROJECT

The Chairman informed the Committee that the Executive Committee sent the Evaluating Committee a request, dated May 11, 1992, that the JBACE be informed of the progress made and the steps taken in forwarding final guideline recommendations to the administrators. On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Chairman proposed sending a letter to the signatories of the January 1992 Memorandum of Understanding expressing the JBACE's surprise at not being consulted on an agreement of this kind, and asking for an explanation as to why.

The Executive Committee further proposed that legal experts be hired to determine whether the Memorandum of Understanding complies with Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. Marie Lessard pointed out that previous efforts had been made by the JBACE with regard to this issue and that its recommendations had failed to produce any outcome. She concluded that such discussions were a waste of the JBACE's time and that it would be more worthwhile to concentrate on other issues.

Mr. Penn endorsed the idea of sending a letter in reference to the Memorandum of Understanding but suggested adding comments on the preliminary guideline issued on April 30, 1992 by the assessment panels and evaluating committees responsible for studying the project. He also tabled a critical analysis of the preliminary guideline.

The Committee decided to continue the discussion of this issue at the next meeting so as to give the members time to study the analysis tabled by Mr. Penn. It was agreed that any comments would be forwarded to the secretariat without delay.

7. CONSULTATION ON HYDRO-QUÉBEC'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Consultations on the formulation of Hydro-Québec's development plan terminated on May 29 and numerous briefs were submitted to the utility. The Committee discussed the various areas covered by the consultations and asked the members who participated to prepare a brief for discussion at the next meeting.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TO STUDY

This item is related to the memo dated November 29, 1991, sent by Mr. Penn, proposing that the Committee examine a series of thirteen environmental issues pertaining to the James Bay Territory. Marie Lessard suggested that the environmental problems faced by Cree communities, such as potable water and wastewater management, be added to this list. She also underscored the importance and need for planning in northern community development. It was decided that members should be given more time to determine the order in which the issues should be dealt with. This item will be brought forward to a future meeting.

9. FIVE-YEAR FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS

The secretariat tabled a preliminary project (June 17, 1992), submitted to the JBACE by the Cree Regional Authority, regarding the analysis of the five-year forest management plans using a geographical information system (GIS). The Committee also watched a video presentation by Ginette Lajoie and Robert Beaulieu from the CRA.

After reading the analysis plan, the Committee was surprised to learn of the proposal that two-thirds of the financing be assumed by the CRA and one-third by the JBACE. It was also surprised to see that the project entails no more than gathering basic data, whereas the JBACE's main objective is to evaluate the plans in terms of their impacts on the Cree use of the territory. Furthermore, members of the Committee suggested that Cree workers be hired under the project. The Committee decided to invite Ginette Lajoie to its next meeting in order to obtain further details about the project.

10. VARIA

a) Comité d'harmonisation

Alan Penn, JBACE delegate to the committee studying the standardization of the monitoring programs for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the La Grande complex, informed the JBACE that the Comité d'harmonisation is on the verge of completing its report on the project's aims and will meet June 19.

b) Tabling of document

Mr. Penn tabled a copy of an article entitled "The LITTLE LAKES that COULD" from the spring 1992 issue of Nature Canada. The article summarizes the essential of the experimental flooding of a lake from the Experimental Lakes Area. This research project will allow the evaluation of greenhouse gas emissions and of methylmercury production. It is financially backed up by Hydro-Québec and the James Bay Mercury Committee.

10. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The JBACE's next meeting will be held on July 10, 1992, at the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique in Sainte-Foy. It was also tentatively agreed to hold another meeting in one of the Cree communities on September 2-4.



ÉRIC CHAINÉ
Technical Advisor, JBACE