



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

**Comité consultatif
pour l'environnement
de la Baie-James**

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Siège social :
M'stissini

Secrétariat et correspondance générale :
Comité consultatif pour l'environnement de la Baie James
Direction régionale du Nord-du-Québec
150, boul René-Lévesque Est, 8^e étage
Boîte 97
Québec (Québec) G1R 4Y1
Téléphone : (418) 528 7354
Télocopieur : (418) 646 0266

**MINUTES OF THE 107th MEETING
OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE ENVIRONMENT
(ADOPTED)**

DATE: January 13, 1999

LOCATION: Cree Regional Authority (CRA)
277 Duke St.
Montréal, Québec

PRESENT: Luc Bouthillier, Québec (by phone)
Yves Désilets, Canada
Susanne Hilton, CRA (by phone)
Ginette Lajoie, CRA, Acting Vice-Chairperson
Claude Langlois, Canada, Chairperson
Jacques Lefebvre, Québec
Diom Romeo Saganash, CRA

Denis Bernatchez, Secretary

ABSENT: Willie Iserhoff, CRA
Harm Sloterdijk, Canada

GUEST PARTICIPANTS: René Dion, CRA
Gilles Fournier, MRN, Region 08
Jean-François Gravel, Forêt-Québec
André Paul, MRN, Region 08
Marc Plante, MRN, Region 02
Denise Tardif, Forêt-Québec



1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Chairperson welcomed the members and then called the 107th meeting of the JBACE to order.

The following agenda was adopted.

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the 105th and 106th meetings
3. Business arising from previous meetings
4. Forestry issues:
 - Criteria and indicators implementation plan
 - Public consultation in Waswanipi
 - Information provided by MRN on the following amendments:
 - ◆ Five-year plan for common area 26-20, Barrette-Chapais, received Oct. 23, 1998
 - ◆ Five-year plan for common area 87-04, Norbord, received Dec. 10, 1998
 - ◆ Five-year plan (amend. #4) for common area 82-85C, Norbord, received Nov. 2, 1998
 - Resource person for forest management plan evaluation
5. Conservation Parks In Cree Territories
6. Varia:
 - INRS bill (\$10 000)
 - JBACE management
7. Date and location of next meeting

2. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 105th AND 106th MEETINGS**

The minutes of the 105th and 106th meetings will be adopted at the JBACE's next regular meeting.

3. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The follow-up discussion on the 106th meeting began with the memo dated November 27, 1998.

4. **FORESTRY ISSUES**

Criteria and indicators implementation plan

The JBACE had formed a multidisciplinary working group comprising representatives from the MRN, MEF, JBACE, and one representative from the

forest industry to draft a plan for implementing its criteria and indicators into the next set of general forest management plans. The exceptional teamwork shown by its members enabled the working group to rapidly complete the mandate of identifying those indicators which could feasibly be incorporated in the short term.

The Chairperson asked for the JBACE members' comments on the working group's report. Overall, they were satisfied with the results and approved the proposed plan. However, they agreed that the JBACE's report should include explanatory notes that: describe the context in which the working group was formed and asked to draft an implementation plan; explain why the JBACE is asking that traplines be made the territorial unit for forest management; justify the need for a special section in general management plans that deals specifically with the JBACE indicators; indicate the required follow-up to this initial integration phase; and list the indicators retained and the related objectives, goals and criteria. Once the report is finalized, the Secretary will forward it to the members for their comments.

It is important to remember that this is only the initial phase of the indicators' integration by TSFMA holders and that the JBACE needs to identify which indicators are to be incorporated in the medium and long terms as quickly as possible. The JBACE will have to submit its report to the MRN soon if it wants André Paul to present it to the TSFMA holders from his region (08) during the meeting in Rouyn on January 28, 1999. The members designated Susanne Hilton to represent the JBACE at this meeting.

Public consultation in Waswanipi

Chief John Kitchen wrote to the JBACE on June 16, 1998, on behalf of the community of Waswanipi, requesting technical assistance in the holding of public hearings on the upcoming general forest management plans. Waswanipi is the Native community most affected by forestry. The JBACE wrote back on December 15, 1998, telling Chief Kitchen that his request would be addressed at the next meeting.

The members agreed to consider the different ways in which the JBACE could assist the community. The JBACE has to have the resources to hold public consultations, if that is indeed what Waswanipi needs. But first, we need to determine whether the community needs to hold public hearings or if it needs technical support in order to offset the influential power held by the forest companies. Romeo Saganash will contact Chief Kitchen to find out what the community expects from the JBACE and the type of service the Committee could provide. The JBACE needs this information before it can help the community.

One member felt that we need to think about following up on the first phase of the implementation of criteria and indicators by conducting a study on Cree needs in relation to forestry. The study, which could be entrusted to Carole Lévesque of INRS-Culture et Société, should identify the concerns of Waswanipi residents, particularly trappers and young people. The cost of such a study is estimated at \$40 000. Waswanipi has \$28 000 that it could contribute to this project, which leaves \$12 000. Ideally, the study should be completed by March 31, 1999. The Chairperson asked that the document pertaining to this study and the related costs be forwarded to the JBACE for consultation. A few minutes later, a member tabled a document prepared by INRS-Culture et Société entitled "Contribution à la mise en oeuvre d'un modèle de gestion adaptative : l'évaluation des besoins et attentes de la population de Waswanipi," which discusses forestry operations in Eeyou Istchee and evaluates the needs and expectations of Waswanipi residents. The members realized that this was the project description for the \$40 000 study previously referred to. They did not have the time to look at the document and make a decision in this regard, but agreed that we need to study the project description before getting back to Chief Kitchen.

Information provided by MRN on amendments to forest management plans

- ◆ Five-year plan for common area 26-20, Barrette-Chapais, received Oct. 23, 1998

Marc Plante informed the members that the tallyman concerned by this amendment is being consulted and the process should be completed soon.

Even though the JBACE has already received information on this amendment from Barrette-Chapais, the MRN assured it that the 90-day period for commenting on the amendment will not begin until the Committee has received all of the information. There are still more documents to come. The MRN representative said that he could not guarantee that the JBACE will always receive a written report on the consultations held with tallymen in relation to amendments but that he will certainly provide a verbal account of the efforts made to consult them.

Mr. Plante went on to say that three quarters of the area targeted by this amendment is outside the JBNQA territory. A member asked that the MRN provide the JBACE with a map showing the southern territorial limits it refers to in determining whether or not the JBACE needs to be consulted. André Paul will write to the JBACE in the coming weeks to explain how the boundary system is currently applied in Region 08.

- ◆ Five-year plan for common area 87-04, Norbord, received Dec. 10, 1998

Gilles Fournier explained this amendment in relation the JBACE's interim guidelines on the information to be contained in forest management plans submitted for its consultation and comments.

This particular amendment consists in extending the five-year plan by one full year (1999-2000). Mr. Fournier tabled the report of consultations with the tallymen concerned, i.e. John Gull (W-21) and Jackie Gull (W-20), as well as the agreements between Norbord and the Waswanipi Band Council regarding surveillance of the Goéland camp ("Entente entre Norbord et le Conseil de Bande de Waswanipi - Entente de services sur la garde du site du camp Goéland") and services on Opawde Waswanipi").

The areas targeted by the amendment are clearly indicated on the synthesis map of Norbord's harvesting operations. The available maps are on a scale of 1: 20 000 and 1: 250 000.

Mr. Fournier pointed out that the JBACE had already received the summary evaluation report and the report containing information on the total volume of timber to be harvested, annual volumes and the names of agreement holders.

The plan has been approved by MEF in relation to wildlife. The letter from Sylvie Baudet (MEF) is dated December 10, 1998.

- ◆ Five-year plan (amend. #4) for common area 82-85C, Norbord, received Nov. 2, 1998

Gilles Fournier showed the map of territorial units based on traplines as well as a map illustrating harvested (red) and new harvesting areas (green). The JBACE received the report on consultations with the tallyman on December 11, 1998.

Mr. Fournier showed the JBACE a table ("État des UTR, aire forestière 82-85C") indicating the area of productive forests four metres and over on the traplines concerned and the names of the tallymen. He gave the Secretary the evaluation report prepared by Serge Phaneuf, the person responsible for the management unit, as well as the final evaluation reports, which are more or less checklists of the documents pertaining to the MRN's application of the impact assessment and review procedure.

Mr. Fournier pointed out that the amendment was planned in consultation with the Waswanipi Band Council. In fact, the consultation report shows that the band and the TSFMA holder worked together in 1996 to ensure agreement on the present amendment. As regards economic spinoffs,

reforestation and precommercial thinning contracts were awarded to Native people.

Resource person for forest management plan evaluation

The Chairperson reminded the MRN representatives that the JBACE met with Deputy Minister of the Environment and Wildlife Diane Gaudet on November 27, 1998, to discuss the JBACE's request for resources so it could comment on forest management plans more effectively and more efficiently. The Deputy Minister told the JBACE that she had met with her counterpart at the MRN, Jean-Paul Beaulieu, and that there was a willingness to provide the JBACE with the resources it needs to carry out this function—an official mandate under the JBNQA. The JBACE wanted to know whether any concrete steps had been taken following these meetings. The Chairperson added that the resources received must enable the JBACE to comment on the environmental as well as the sociocultural and economic aspects of management plans and that, in this respect, the resource person need not necessarily be a forest engineer. In fact, for practical purposes, the time could be shared between two people who have both training and experience in the environmental, social and economic aspects of forestry.

Jean-François Gravel confirmed that the deputy ministers had indeed discussed this matter, but that the terms of the secondment still had to be worked out, which could take some time. A JBACE member felt that the MRN is stalling and using any excuse to put off making a decision. The member asked Mr. Gravel to decide one way or another and let the JBACE know by January 22, 1999, if the MRN is going to give the JBACE the support it has requested. Mr. Gravel promised to give the JBACE an answer by January 22.

A member added that the JBACE should be trusted to manage these resources. This is a long-standing need and a decision simply has to be made. In fact, it would have been preferable if the resource person had been present at today's meeting in order to familiarize him/herself with the JBACE's needs and the relevant provisions of the JBNQA.

5. CONSERVATION PARKS IN CREE TERRITORIES

Discussion of this item was postponed until the next regular meeting.

6. VARIA

INRS bill (\$10 000). The Chairperson had asked the Secretary to contact INRS about the bill for \$10 000 the JBACE received for work on the criteria and indicators. The JBACE is waiting for this information before paying the bill.

JBACE management. This issue will be the subject of an ad hoc meeting on February 11, 1999.

7. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The JBACE will hold its next meeting on February 11, 1999, at the CRA offices in Montréal. This is an ad hoc meeting, and JBACE management will be the only item on the agenda.



DENIS BERNATCHEZ
Secretary

99-06-02