



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 119TH MEETING  
OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
(ADOPTED)**

**DATE:** October 17 and 18, 2000

**LOCATION:** Val d'Or Harricana Hotel

**PRESENT:** Susanne Hilton, CRA  
Willie Iserhoff, CRA  
Ginette Lajoie, CRA  
Claude Langlois, Canada, Vice-Chairperson  
Pierre Moses, Québec, Alternate Chairperson  
Jacques Robert, Canada  
Harm Sloterdijk, Canada

Denis Bernatchez, Executive Secretary

**ABSENT:** Yves Désilets, Canada  
Marian Fournier, Québec  
Carole Garceau, Québec  
Jacques Lefebvre, Québec, Chairperson  
Diom Romeo Saganash, CRA

**GUEST:** Sam W. Gull, President, Waswanipi Cree Model Forest

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

The Vice-Chairperson informed the members that the Chairperson was unable to attend the meeting. He indicated that, in keeping with paragraph 22.3.5 of the JBNQA, the members of the party that had appointed the Chairperson were to select an alternate Chairperson from among them. Pierre Moses agreed to act as the alternate Chairperson. He welcomed all members and called the 119th 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 past JBACE meetings: 115th (February 15, 2000, CRA), 116th (April 7, 2000, Environment Canada), 117th (April 26, 2000, conference call) and 118th (July 13, 2000, Environment Canada)
3. Business arising from the last meeting
4. 2000-2001 budgetary proposal
5. a) Public consultation on water management  
b) Correspondence received from directors of operations
6. a) New forest system  
b) Specifications for a call for tenders for forest management plans (FMP)
7. Presentation on the Waswanipi Cree Model Forest;
8. JBACE annual report
9. Transmission of the criteria and indicators (C&I) report
10. Miscellaneous: correspondence received: waste management
11. Date and location of next meeting.

**2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF PAST JBACE MEETINGS: 115TH, 116TH, 117TH AND 118TH**

The minutes of the JBACE's 115th, 116th and 117th meetings were adopted after some changes were made. Adoption of the minutes of the 118th meeting was carried over to the next meeting.

**3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING**

Follow-up was based on the April 17, 2000 memorandum.

**CEAA:** A CEAA working group, composed of Ginette Lajoie and Claude Langlois, was created and mandated to follow up on the JBACE's recommendations for the CEAA review. Pierre Moses will check whether the members appointed by Québec wish to take part in this working group. Personally, he does not see the need for it. The different activities planned include a meeting with Steve Burgess and a letter to the Federal Administrator on this subject.

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**Forestry:** Various letters will be written to Minister Brassard and J-F Gravel regarding use of the \$100 000, Bill 105, the availability of synthesis maps on CD and the development of a forestry overview of the Territory (synthesis map).

4. **2000-2001 BUDGETARY PROPOSAL**

**JBACE Resolution No. 2000-10-17-01 on the budgetary proposal.**

**IT IS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Part One of the budgetary proposal, which discusses operation of the JBACE secretariat, be adopted. The document shall be forwarded to the Minister of the Environment stating that Part Two, which deals with the action plan, will follow when completed. A working group whose members are Ginette Lajoie, Marian Fournier and Yves Désilets is given the mandate to elaborate the second part of the budget proposal on the JBACE action plan.**

**Moved by: Harm Sloterdijk  
Seconded by: Susanne Hilton**

**Adopted unanimously.**

5. A) **PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON WATER MANAGEMENT**

A working group, composed of Ginette Lajoie, Jacques Lefebvre and Harm Sloterdijk, was created and mandated to update the specifications prepared for the consultation on water management.

The group will check with the Ministère de l'Environnement to find out whether our initial comments were taken into account by those responsible for drafting the government policy.

B) **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM DIRECTORS OF OPERATIONS**

A receipt voucher will be sent to the directors of operations of Cree communities regarding the problems raised with respect to the drinking water regulation. It was also agreed to write to the Regional Director of Abitibi-Témiscamingue of the MENV to ask that an overview of drinking water systems (supply, treatment, distribution) be prepared for every Cree community. The JBACE will also ask for information on the future of the administrative agreement between the Department and the Territory's Cree communities.

6. **NEW FOREST SYSTEM**

- a) **Brief on Bill 136:** The JBACE hired Martin Pelletier as a consultant to write a draft brief on Bill 136. The draft was submitted to the members and was adopted after changes were made. The brief reiterates and highlights everything that the JBACE has been proposing for the past 5 or 6 years. Its presentation before the parliamentary commission is scheduled for October 24, 2000. The members designated to present it are: Jacques Lefebvre (Québec), Claude Langlois (Canada) and a member to be designated by the Cree party.

A member appointed by Canada tried to identify the questions that might be asked by the parliamentary commission. The members discussed possible answers to these questions.

- b) **Specifications for a call for tender for forest management plans (FMP):** To date, JBACE members have not agreed on specifications for a call for tender to comment on the FMPs. The members' positions diverge as to how the 100 000\$ MNR subsidy should be used. Some feel it should be spent to develop a separate forest system, based on some of the FMPs submitted to the JBACE. Others, particularly those appointed by Québec, feel that the money should be slated strictly for the comments on the FMPs, as Minister Brassard stated in his covering letter. To help clarify the matter, it was suggested that the JBACE write to Minister Brassard to inform him of its intention to develop a separate forest system, as proposed in its brief on Bill 136.
- c) **Criteria and indicators follow-up:** A member appointed by the CRA feels that the JBACE could use part of the \$100 000 subsidy to hire a resource person to help the forestry subcommittee make some headway on this file, given the fact that it has been inactive for many months. A member appointed by Canada believes that this proposal exceeds the subcommittee's mandate, namely to regroup the criteria and indicators more effectively, fine-tune the translation and remove elements that are irrelevant. This mandate corresponds to the one that was to have been developed by a member appointed by Québec in September 1999, following the criteria and indicators workshop. It is essential that the forestry industry clearly understand the JBACE's message.
- d) **Strategy for protected areas:** In the Chairperson's absence, the Secretary took part in the Ministère de l'Environnement's information session on Québec's strategy for protected areas. During this session, which the JBACE attended as a guest, we learned that the working groups responsible for developing the strategy for the government had already been created. However, the Aboriginal representatives had yet to be identified. The problem, according to Léopold Gaudreau, the director responsible for developing this strategy, is that the

identification of these representatives was a priority. He has the coordinates of the Aboriginal organizations that group together the Territory's Crees.

The working groups' mandate is very involved and corresponds to full-time participation over several months, something the JBACE is unable to offer, with the resources at its disposal. The JBACE will, however, be consulted on a draft strategy once one is ready. The members agreed to inform the GCCQ, the CRA, the MBJ and the Cree communities of this project, use this opportunity to ask them whether they are interested in this issue and invite them to send us their comments. The comments submitted to the JBACE will be forwarded to those responsible for developing the strategy. A member appointed by Canada offered to write a text on the strategy for protected areas to be submitted to the members for discussion at the next meeting. In this dossier, the members find it useful to refer to the document prepared for the CRA, MEF and WWFC on "Conservation Parks In Cree Territories".

## **7. PRESENTATION ON THE WASWANAPI CREE MODEL FOREST**

Susanne Hilton, General Manager of the Waswanipi Cree Model Forest and JBACE member, suggested that Sam W. Gull, President of the WCMF, present this file. The information presented touched on the following:

- Contrary to what many people think, the model forest is not a logging company.
- The model forest network dates from 1992. There were ten in Canada, none of which was Aboriginal. Waswanipi applied in 1997 to become a model forest.
- Waswanipi's situation is unique and complex, due, among others things, to the fact that three languages are spoken and that many partners are involved in the file.
- Managers count heavily on public involvement. Since forest management has social and environmental repercussions, conflict is normal when trappers meet with logging companies to protect certain sectors.
- Among the target objectives are protecting the Cree way of life and working closely with other users of the Territory. It is not the model forest's job to solve all problems but to try to get those involved to sit down together to study the problems and minimize damages.
- The \$500 000 subsidy comes from the Canadian Forestry Service and \$250 000 comes from outside sources.
- Initially, the project was to be limited to the Nabakatuk CAAF on Category I lands. Now, it covers 52 traplines. The management system is based on traplines.
- Three main traplines were chosen for a pilot project. The partners are: Domtar, Donohue, Norbord and Nabakatuk. These traplines were significantly affected by logging operations. Only seven traplines in the North remain untouched by forestry operations.

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- The information supplied by forest companies is not presented in a standard fashion and it would be important to have compatible databases and an overview of the forest situation.
  - Some partners do not participate much and seem to be disinterested in funding solutions to the problems raised. It is important to define the meaning of sustainable development in the forest context. The Crees have a holistic view of the forest whereas the companies have a commercial view.
  - The model forest's three priorities are: community involvement; sustainable forest management, integrating both the commercial viewpoint and the viewpoint of the Crees; and consultation of interested parties by making the technical documents more accessible.
  - The trappers have raised aspects related to water quality, game, migratory birds and environmental assessment (mining, forest and road projects). The trappers have observed so many changes within such a short time that they want to understand the cumulative effects of project impacts on their way of life.
  - The model forest wants to work with partners to find common solutions to the problems raised. The Territory must be protected since it is the cornerstone of the Cree culture.

The members thanked Sam W. Gull for his interesting presentation.

#### **8. JBACE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Secretary reminded members that, in keeping with section 147 of the EQA, the JBACE must submit its annual activity report before June 30 each year. The secretariat has received no comments on the draft submitted to members at the beginning of June 2000. The members agreed that the annual report should reflect what the JBACE did during the year. The JBACE experienced difficulties and it is important that this show in the annual report, which is something of the memoir of JBACE activities. A member appointed by the CRA felt that a professional writer should be hired to write the next annual report. Where the 1999-2000 report is concerned, the members will submit their comments no later than December 14.

#### **9. TRANSMISSION OF THE CRITERIA AND INDICATORS (C&I) REPORT**

The document on criteria and indicators, prepared following the September 1999 workshop, will not be sent as is. It will be re-submitted to the working group, which will formulate a new simplified, improved version so as to settle problems related to translation, vocabulary and redundancy. The working group will prepare an implementation plan.

10. **MISCELLANEOUS: A) CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

- **Waste management:** The members received the most recent version of the *Règlement sur l'élimination des matières résiduelles* (Regulation respecting the elimination of waste materials) which is at the pre-publication stage. The members asked that the secretariat check to see whether the comments made by the JBACE when the EQA was amended have been integrated into this version.
- **Letter from the COMEV Chairperson:** The COMEV Chairperson has submitted a problem to the JBACE that raises a number of issues concerning opening up the Territory and increased access to its resources due to the growth in the number of boat launching ramps. Aware of this problem, the members agreed to write to the MBJ to bring up this particular issue and get explanations from one of the main promoters of this type of access to the Territory. A member appointed by Québec mentioned that the territory of the MBJ has two working groups: one on the impact of the increased access to the Territory (linked to the HFTCC) and another on development study of the James Bay highway. This last committee is a joint panel on tourism in which Crees participate.
- **Directive 019:** An invitation will be sent to Conrad Anctil asking that a presentation be made to the JBACE on clean-up certificates and how they apply to the Territory. This meeting will also let members gauge our progress on the JBACE brief on Directive 019.
- **Environment Canada's hazardous waste strategy:** A member appointed by the CRA had received documents on this subject. It was suggested that the JBACE write to Craig Ferguson to determine whether it will be consulted on this topic.

10. **DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

The next JBACE meeting will be held in Québec City on January 16 and 17, 2001.



**DENIS BERNATCHEZ**  
Secretary

00-12-01