



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 120th MEETING
OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON THE ENVIRONMENT
(ADOPTED)**

DATE: February 6, 2001

LOCATION: Édifice Marie-Guyart, Québec

PRESENT: Yves Désilets, Canada
Marian Fournier, Québec
Carole Garceau, Québec
Susanne Hilton, CRA
Ginette Lajoie, CRA
Pierre Moses, Québec, alternate Chairperson
Jacques Robert, Canada

Denis Bernatchez, Executive Secretary

ABSENT: Willie Iserhoff, CRA
Claude Langlois, Canada, Vice-Chairperson
Jacques Lefebvre, Québec, Chairperson
Diom Romeo Saganash, CRA
Harm Sloterdijk, Canada

OTHER PARTICIPANTS: Patrick Beauchesne, Direction du patrimoine écologique et
du développement durable
Daniel Berrouard, Coordinator, Aboriginal Relations
Cécile Chatelas, Direction des politiques du secteur
industriel
Josée Dartois, Direction des politiques du secteur industriel
Diane Jean, Deputy Minister of the Environment
Nicole Gougeon, Secretary, HFTCC



1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Vice-Chairperson informed the members that the Chairperson is unable to attend the meeting. In accordance with paragraph 22.3.5 of the JBNQA, in the absence of the Chairperson at any meeting, an alternate Chairperson is selected by and from among the members appointed by the party that appointed the Chairperson. Accordingly, Pierre Moses accepted to serve as alternate Chairperson. He welcomed all members and called the 120th meeting of the JBACE to order. The following agenda was adopted.

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Meeting with Diane Jean
3. Adoption of the minutes of the 118th meeting (July 13, 2000, at the Environment Canada offices) and the 119th meeting (October 17 and 18, in Val d'Or)
4. Business arising from the previous meeting
5. Protected areas
6. 2000-2001 budgetary proposal
7. Depollution attestation
8. Consultation on water management
9. Specifications for a call for tenders for forest management plans (FMP)
10. Varia
11. Date and location of next meeting

2. MEETING WITH DIANE JEAN

During the preparatory discussion for the meeting with Deputy Minister Diane Jean, the JBACE members maintained their previous position, i.e. that their secretariat should not be located in MENV offices and that the Committee must be granted a proper budget to allow it to carry out its mandate. The question of whether or not the COMEV secretariat will move at the same time will be considered later: an interest has been shown in grouping COMEV and COMEX in the same office.

The Executive Secretary of the HFTCC was invited to discuss the issue of regrouping the secretariats. She stressed that the advantages to grouping the secretariats are primarily synergy and autonomy; the economy of scale will be minimal. Because the HFTCC is in the midst of considering changing offices, the JBACE must let it know by March 31, 2001 if it wants to share an office as mentioned in the HFTCC chairman's letter date January 8, 2001.

The Deputy Minister arrived, and the alternate Chairperson welcomed her and thanked her for agreeing to meet with the JBACE to discuss the secretariat's autonomy, its financial needs and the administrative agreement with MENV. Ms. Jean was accompanied by Daniel Berrouard, Aboriginal Relations Coordinator.

The members continued their discussion and impressed upon the Deputy Minister that the JBACE secretariat needs a permanent staff to support the members in their work. This staff must be put in place in time to achieve the JBACE's objectives and move in with the HFTCC. Reference was also made to the brief on the status and operation of the JBACE and the draft JBACE/MENV administrative agreement prepared by the Committee. In principle, the secretariat is under the direction and control of the JBACE; in practice, however, it is under the direction and control of MENV. The members asked the Deputy Minister to bring them up to speed on the negotiations with the CEEA regarding JBACE funding.

The Deputy Minister said it was the beginning of a change, but that she could not say at this time what the outcome would be. The CEEA submitted the issue to the federal government, and Québec did the same with its government. More steps will be taken. The Québec government will be tabling its Estimates in March, and we will know then what kind of budgetary flexibility it has. If the money is there, the Deputy Minister hopes to give the JBACE secretariat its autonomy by April 1, 2001. She confirmed that the JBACE file will stay on the front burner with a view to a decision in March, and her goal is to see that that happens. She is working along the same lines as the federal government in this matter, and hopes that any decisions will be made jointly and in a timely manner. She said she was confident. The members thanked the Deputy Minister for coming.

The JBACE mentioned that the administrative agreement with MENV should be finalised by March 31, 2001. Daniel Berrouard will act as liaison on this issue.

It was proposed that the JBACE meet with the Deputy Minister again in one month for a progress report. She will be sent a letter to this effect. An effort will also be made to meet with the Federal Administrator, Sid Gershberg. The Secretary was asked to set up a meeting.

3. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 118th AND 119th MEETINGS OF THE JBACE**

Adoption of the minutes of the 118th meeting was carried over to the next meeting. A working group composed of Ginette Lajoie, Pierre Moses and Claude Langlois was formed to hold a conference call to discuss the numerous changes made by the Cree party.

The minutes of the 119th meeting were adopted with minor corrections.

Some members feel that the minutes are too detailed and should contain only a minimum of information. Others disagreed, saying that it is important that people outside the Committee be able to understand what was said during the meeting.

The Secretary explained that his intention when writing up the minutes is to enable a member who was absent or anyone who was not present at the meeting to understand what was discussed, the opinions expressed by the different parties and the decisions made.

Given that the JBACE does not review projects (as do COMEV and COMEX), it produces no directives, guidelines or recommendations. The JBACE often discusses the general points of policies, laws, regulations or any other aspect that might affect the environmental and social protection regime in the Territory in any way. If the minutes contained only JBACE decisions and no summary of discussions, they would be meaningless.

The Secretary pointed out that the situation with the minutes of the 118th meeting is unprecedented. Members asked in the past that the minutes clearly express the issues debated during meetings without mentioning any names. Some members see the minutes as a "learning opportunity" for others. Other members asked the Secretary to make the minutes considerably shorter so as to avoid discussion when it comes times to adopt them. No consensus was reached on the matter.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Follow-up to the 119th meeting was carried out based on the October 27, 2000 memorandum.

5. **PROTECTED AREAS**

Patrick Beauchesne of the *Direction du patrimoine écologique et du développement durable* (ecological heritage and sustainable development branch) gave a presentation on the progress in adopting a Québec strategy on protected areas. He explained that the strategy was announced on September 26, 2000, and provisions were made for Aboriginal involvement in the drafting of the strategy. Consultations will be held before the draft strategy is submitted to the government. Mr. Beauchesne gave the members a copy of the overheads used in his presentation and said that Groupe Cleary had been mandated to keep Aboriginal people informed and foster their participation in the strategy's development.

A member appointed by Canada wanted to know why the JBACE had not received the information document that was to be sent following the September 26 meeting. This document is presently examined by the three Ministries concerned by this issue. Mr. Beauchesne replied that the steering committee had decided that the document needed to be reviewed and amended before being submitted to the JBACE for consultation. The document is currently incomplete. The government is in the

process of reviewing the draft strategy, which is why the meeting scheduled for the end of January was cancelled. Mr. Beauchesne said that the timetable still stood, and the draft strategy should be released in June of this year. Implementation will then begin so that the strategy's goals can be attained.

A CRA-appointed member found the method for identifying protected areas in the Territory to be wanting, because it does not give sufficient consideration to either the JBNQA or the JBACE. Mr. Beauchesne replied that any Aboriginal knowledge that would help the government define protected areas is welcome. So far, no site has been set aside. The mandate of the strategy working groups is to define a site proposal method. The criterions being used by Quebec are those elaborated by IUNC. According to those criterions, 1,5% of the Territory is protected. The members got a chance to ask questions and then thanked Mr. Beauchesne for his presentation.

6. 2000-2001 BUDGETARY PROPOSAL

The working group will meet to draft the JBACE's action plan, which constitutes Part II of the budgetary proposal.

7. DEPOLLUTION ATTESTATION

Josée Dartois and Cécile Chatelas of the *Direction des politiques du secteur industriel* (industrial policies branch) gave a presentation on depollution attestations and their significance in the JBNQA territory.

Using copies of overheads distributed to the members, they explained what a depollution attestation is and how it relates to MENV's Industrial Pollution Abatement Program. The members were able to ask questions to gain a better understanding of the significance of these attestations. It was reminded that, in 1998, the Government elaborated a program aimed at reducing industrial pollution. The depollution attestation (rather an exploitation permit) should be used as a legal tool for this program.

It was decided to write to Josée Dartois and Cécile Chatelas to impress upon them that drinking water conservation is a major issue in the James Bay territory and, in the JBACE's opinion, should be included in depollution attestations issued for industrial projects in the Territory, that project follow-up should be given considerable attention and the results should be known. The letter should also mention the need to improve the base knowledge of the environment of the James Bay territory.

8. **CONSULTATION ON WATER MANAGEMENT**

This item was not discussed.

9. **SPECIFICATIONS FOR A CALL FOR TENDERS FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS (FMP)**

The forestry subcommittee met on February 5 to agree on the objectives and a work plan. The chair of the working group briefly explained the direction the subcommittee wishes to take. A description of the forest situation should be done on the Territory. Within the next few weeks, members will receive a draft text from their representative on the forestry subcommittee. Representations may eventually be made to the Minister of Natural Resources to ask that he release funds for the action plan.

10. **VARIA**

No items were added.

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

The next JBACE meeting will be held on April 11, 2001 in Val d'Or.



DENIS BERNATCHEZ
Secretary

01-03-01