



MINUTES OF THE 222nd MEETING OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE

November 29, 2021

LOCATION

Videoconference

PRESENT

Melissa Saganash, Cree Nation Government
Marc Dunn, Cree Nation Government
Kelly LeBlanc, Cree Nation Government
Flora Weistche, Cree Nation Government
Vanessa Chalifour, Québec
Manon Cyr, Québec
Brigitte Goulet, Québec
Mélanie Savoie, Québec

Suzie Boudreau, Canada
Alexandre-Guy Côté, Canada
Elisabeth Gill, Canada
Madeleine Green, Canada

Michèle Leduc-Lapierre, Executive Director
Graeme Morin, Environmental Analyst
Eva Wolf, Secretariat Officer

WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair welcomed the two new members appointed by Québec, Mélanie Savoie from the MERN and Vanessa Chalifour from the MELCC. A roundtable was made so the members could introduce themselves.

On a motion by Manon Cyr, seconded by Kelly LeBlanc, the agenda (see appendix 1) was adopted.

MINUTES OF THE 221ST MEETING

A few modifications were made to the minutes of the 221st meeting.

On a motion by Manon Cyr, seconded by Melissa Saganash, the minutes of the 221st meeting were adopted with modifications.

ADMINISTRATION

Follow-up on the 2021-2022 finances

The Executive Director presented the status of the finances as of October 21, 2021, and reminded the members that the monthly comparative statements are available on the cloud. She gave details on the budgetary items that will require a modification in the forecast for the current year. Following that, the members discussed the proposed revisions to the 2021-2022 budget.

On a motion by Elisabeth Gill, seconded by Kelly LeBlanc, the revised 2021-2022 budget was adopted.

2022-2023 budget

The Executive Director presented the 2022-2023 budget.

She informed the members that the budget will show a deficit, but it will be covered by the current year's surplus (as a result of the pandemic).

The members discussed the idea of hiring a communication intern to develop a new communications plan. The Chair is of the opinion that working with someone from outside of the JBACE will shed light on the activities of the committee and broaden its vision. The Executive Director will seek information on the costs related to hiring an intern for the summer of 2022 and finalize everything with the Administrative Committee (AC).

The members discussed the possibility of sending hard copies of the Annual Report to the communities instead of sending only an electronic version. They concur on the suggestion. The budget for "Printing & reprography" and "Mail & Courier" will be modified accordingly.

The members agreed to adopt the budget on a provisional basis and let the AC finalize it.

On a motion by Manon Cyr, seconded by Madeleine Green, the 2022-2023 budget was adopted on a provisional basis.

GCC/CNG RESOLUTION RELATED TO CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT

A member explained that the Grand Council of the Crees adopted last summer a resolution in which they are asking Hydro-Québec to communicate more on their work related to impact assessment and cumulative impacts. Hydro-Québec is preparing the end of a development cycle related to the Rupert project and is involved with the Niskamoon Corporation and the Cree Nation Government in a study related to the cumulative impacts of hydroelectric development. It would be the right time to suggest that Hydro-Québec come and present their work related to the monitoring of the impacts of their project on the territory, and to invite Niskamoon to join in to present a follow-up to their coastal study.

The members agreed that Niskamoon and Hydro-Québec should be invited to the next meeting. The Secretariat will work on a draft letter for the invitations.

FILES

Cumulative impacts

The Analyst presented an update of the file. A subcommittee meeting was held on November 5. The subcommittee is in the process of drafting strategies (data, directives, regional planning, regional policy).

The JBACE received an invitation letter from COMEX two years ago, before the beginning of the pandemic, to have a formal meeting to discuss, among other things, cumulative effects. The analyst specified that the JBACE is not yet ready to plan a formal meeting and present their strategy plan on cumulative effects. The subcommittee will still communicate in the coming weeks with COMEX and other stakeholders informally to help develop the strategies and to inform them of the progress made in the file. The formal response to the invitation will be made later when there are opportunities to meet in person and the strategies are ready.

Northern Conservation Areas Designation Mechanism

The analyst reminded members that there was a presentation on this initiative last September. The submission of the mechanism is not envisaged before the winter of 2022. A subcommittee must be created for this file. A member for the Cree party is appointed for the subcommittee, the federal and provincial parties will send the name of a member to the secretariat.

Climate change

The Executive Director reminded members that the objective of the fact sheet is to use the information from the Ouranos report to simplify the content in order to make it accessible to the general public.

She presented a new draft of the design of the fact sheet, more colourful and attractive, with a different map than the previous draft.

The proposed design was accepted by the members, but with the following adjustments:

- Add a note specifying that the quotes come from observations taken from the Ouranos report.
- Incorporate the JBACE logo on the first page to enhance the committee's exposure.

The fact sheet should be completed by the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

MFFP policy on relations with Aboriginal nations and communities

The JBACE will contact the MFFP to inquire about the status of the file.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Forest Management

The analyst provided an overview of the file and mentions that an information note is available on the cloud. Following the invitation received from the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks, the secretariat is working on a commentary letter regarding the draft strategy. The deadline is December 12, 2021. The JBACE will contact the MFFP to obtain an extension. A subcommittee meeting will be scheduled shortly.

Fisheries Act

An information session regarding the second wave of the project on compensation and habitat reserves took place on November 17, 2021. The draft letter regarding offsetting and habitat banking (wave 1) will have to be approved by the members by December 15, 2021 before being sent to DFO. Members agreed to provide feedback to the Analyst by December 7, 2021.

Bill 102

The Analyst informed the members that the JBACE became aware of the file last October without any notice or invitation. Bill 102 covers more than a dozen laws and regulations. The analyst and the executive director thus had to undertake an exhaustive analysis in table format and in a briefing note (available on the cloud). The secretariat also prepared a draft letter. The analyst mentioned that there is no specific date for sending the letter, but that it will have an impact if it were sent quickly to the Parliamentary Committee given that the special consultations ended last week. The Commission will start the article-by-article review shortly.

An ad-hoc subcommittee was created and will meet on November 30, 2021, at 1 p.m. The members of the subcommittee will work on the comments.

BAPE Commission

The Executive Director assured the members that everything has been finalized regarding the JBACE's part in the file. The members will be informed once the report is published. The Chair added that this file makes it possible to highlight what can be undertaken within the territory regarding the management of residual materials, and thanked the members for their contribution.

Draft regulation on certain transitional measures necessary to carry out of the Act to amend the Natural Heritage Conservation Act and other provisions

The draft regulation was published on November 24, 2021 and the JBACE received an invitation letter to offer its comments. The Analyst mentioned that it is not necessary to comment, as these measures have no direct impact on the application of Section 22. The secretariat will thus prepare a letter to offer thanks for the invitation, and to mention that the committee will not issue comments thereon.

NEXT MEETING

Meeting with the Administrators

The members discussed the possibility of inviting the Federal and Provincial Administrators to the next meeting of the JBACE. A member suggested preparing a list of issues/topics to be discussed that could be included in the invitation. The secretariat will work on a first draft and send it to the members, as well as a draft letter of invitation for each.

AJOURN

Prepared by Eva Wolf, Secretariat Officer and Michèle Leduc-Lapierre, Executive Director

Reviewed by Graeme Morin, Environmental Analyst

Adopted on march 17, 2022.



Comité consultatif pour l'environnement
James Bay Advisory Committee on

222nd Meeting of the JBACE

Videoconference, November 29, 2021, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

To join the videoconference, click here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87815972343>.

To join by phone only, see the meeting notice.

1. 8:30 Welcome, presentations and adoption of the agenda
2. 8:45 Adoption of the minutes from meeting 221
3. 8:50 Administration
 - Follow-up on finances for 2021-2022
 - Activities for 2022-2023 and adoption of the budget
4. 9:45 GCC/CNG Resolution related to cumulative impacts of hydroelectric development
 - Point of information from Marc Dunn
5. 10:00 Break
6. 10:15 Files
 - Cumulative impacts
 - Update
 - Meeting with COMEX, COMEV and COFEX-South
 - Northern Conservation Areas Designation Mechanism
 - Climate change fact sheet – new design
 - Development of a MFFP policy on relations with Aboriginal nations and communities
 - Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Forest Management
 - *Fisheries Act*
 - Bill 102
 - BAPE Commission
 - Draft regulation on certain transitional measures necessary to carry out of *the Act to amend the Natural Heritage Conservation Act and other provisions*
7. 11:50 Next meeting
8. 12:00 Adjourn