



## MINUTES OF THE 225<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

### DATE

September 15, 2022

### LOCATION

Waskaganish

### PRESENT

Melissa Saganash, Cree Nation Government  
Marc Dunn, Cree Nation Government  
Kelly LeBlanc, Cree Nation Government  
Vanessa Chalifour, Québec  
Brigitte Goulet, Québec  
Mélanie Savoie, Québec  
Madeleine Green, Canada

Alexandre-Guy Côté, Canada  
Elisabeth Gill, Canada  
  
Michèle Leduc-Lapierre, Executive Director  
Graeme Morin, Environmental Analyst (remote)  
Eva Wolf, Secretariat Officer

### ABSENT

Flora Weistche, Cree Nation Government  
Manon Cyr, Québec  
Suzie Boudreau, Canada

### WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman welcomed the members.

On a motion by Mélanie Savoie, seconded by Alexandre-Guy Côté, the agenda (see appendix 1) is adopted.

### ADMINISTRATION

#### **Adoption of the minutes of meetings 223 and 224**

The Executive Director informs the members that the comments on minutes of meeting 223, whose adoption had been postponed, were available on the cloud. The minutes of meeting 223 are adopted, with the modifications, on a motion by Brigitte Goulet, seconded by Elisabeth Gill.

The Executive Director mentions that there was a minor change to make on the minutes of meeting 224 (list of absent persons to be corrected). On a motion by Vanessa Chalifour, seconded by Alexandre-Guy Côté, the minutes of meeting 224 are adopted with the needed corrections.

#### **Follow-up on actions from meeting 224**

The Executive Director presents the follow-up on the actions from meeting 224. She thanks all the members for their participation in the preparatory meeting and in the workshops for the development of the strategic plan. She mentions that subcommittee members still need to be identified in order to progress with the work on the content of the strategic plan. Once the subcommittee is defined, it will prepare a first draft of the plan to be presented at the next committee meeting on November 30, 2022.

For the evaluation of the communication tools, the Executive Director confirms that the JBACE does not have Google Analytics to evaluate the data regarding the use of the website. Regarding the website modifications proposals, she suggests developing the communication plan before considering a redesign of the website.

### **Follow-up on finance**

The Executive Director reminds the members that the monthly comparative statements are available on the cloud.

She reviews the budget items and notes that travel and meeting expenses will increase due to the trip to the Territory. Professional fees will also exceed the budget due to the hiring of a human resources consultant for the recruitment process of a part-time Analyst and the revision of the secretariat's salary scale. She concludes that due to the surplus at the end of the past fiscal years, the additional expenses will be well absorbed.

### **Hiring of part-time Analyst**

The Executive Director informs the members that the JBACE will work with Perreault et Associées to assist with the hiring of the part-time Analyst. A meeting with Perreault et Associées is scheduled for September 16, 2022. The hiring process could be completed by November 30, 2022. The Executive Director will work with the Administrative Committee to follow up.

### **Revision of the remuneration**

The Executive Director explains that the first salary scale was adopted by the members in 2018. Given that it is approaching five years since then, it is appropriate to evaluate it in order to ensure that it is still current. The JBACE will work with Perreault et Associées to evaluate the scale and, if necessary, propose changes. She emphasizes that this approach is part of an effort to remain competitive in the labour market and to retain employees with attractive conditions.

### **Next meeting (meeting 228, June 2023)**

The Executive Director gives an update on the organization of future committee meetings. The members decide that the June 2023 meeting would be held in Mistissini. A member will check the availability of the Cree Regional Administrator between May 15 and June 15, 2023. The Executive Director will contact the Mistissini Lodge to verify availability. When the dates are confirmed, a revised meeting notice will be sent to members.

## **FILES**

### **PAFITs**

The analyst explains that the parameters for the review and the call for proposals are published on the website. He asks the members to circulate the call for proposals on their networks, the deadline for submission being September 23, 2022. In the meantime, he is preparing the tools for reviewing the proposals and various accompanying documents for the selected firm. Two meetings are already planned with the subcommittee and the firm (once selected). The analyst confirms that November 15, 2022 is the date for receiving PAFITs and there is no extension planned due to the holiday season.

A member asks about the strategy being adopted to re-engage potential contractors. The Executive Director confirms that the focus is on potential companies that would have an interest or an expertise for the review and that a follow-up is planned.

### **Cumulative effects**

The Analyst summarizes the discussion held on July 27, 2022 with the COMEX. A summary of the meeting is available on the cloud, in which the action items and some comments received are presented. The Analyst outlines two items that require member agreement in order to proceed with the work: data and directives.

The Analyst reports that several COMEX members raised questions about the need to create a regional database. A member explains that it would be precipitous to rework the overall strategy in light of this disagreement regarding the creation of a database. Access to data is essential for decision making. The members determine that this avenue should not be abandoned and, to start off, this first phase will be exploratory in nature. The resulting strategy should identify solutions to facilitate access to data and encourage governments to adopt open data policies.

A member suggests contacting Dominique Gravel (Université de Sherbrooke) who is working on a database project. It may be interesting for the JBACE to get involved in the project. The Analyst will thus contact Mr. Gravel to obtain more information.

Regarding the directives, the Analyst explains that COMEX members raised similar questions about the data, underscoring some disagreement with the proposal to look at the directives. The members feel that it is premature to put the issue aside. Priorities need to be adjusted and this component should be retained as a medium-term investment of effort. Following discussions, the members decide not to set aside the work on the directives. The Analyst will thus also draft a strategy for this action.

The Analyst continues by providing an update on the other two action items that he is working on that do not require validations of the members at this time (i.e., regional planning and regional policy action). Strategies will be developed for these two actions.

A member suggests that the JBACE should aim for a wider audience for the dissemination of its progress and products stemming from its efforts in this file. He suggests that a list of organizations that would be interested in receiving JBACE updates and reports on the matter should be prepared.

The Analyst also informs the members of the possibility of a meeting in October 2022 with the interdepartmental committee responsible for planning the renovation of the Billy Diamond Highway. Several organizations (JBACE, KEAC, COMEX, etc.) will be invited to this meeting to discuss issues related to cumulative effects and the transportation network. The Analyst will confirm the date and provide more information about this meeting as soon as possible. He invites the JBACE members to participate and to advise him by email if they are interested. In the meantime, it will be necessary to determine the composition of the interdepartmental committee and to identify the person or team in charge of the committee.

### **Legislative and regulatory portrait**

The Executive Director informs the members that she had a discussion with our partner from Université de Sherbrooke, Ms. Catherine Choquette, the previous week. She mentions that the report could be completed not this fall, but in the 2023 winter.

The Executive Director reiterates that an agreement of \$3,000 had been reached for the drafting of the report, but it may be necessary to call on the support of a student and thus require additional funds. She notes that all the work will be completed by the end of the 2022-2023 fiscal year and that she will ensure follow-ups throughout the process.

The Chairman asks the Executive Director to ensure that a project calendar is established and that estimated costs are respected. The secretariat must be able to determine quickly if additional resources are required in order to adjust. It could also be appropriate to schedule a face-to-face meeting. If needed, the Executive Director's travel to the University of Sherbrooke will be authorized accordingly if needed.

### ***Fisheries Act***

A member explains that Phase 2 engagement is ongoing and that there are several initiatives underway: cumulative effects, the prescribed works and waters regulation, the aquatic species at risk conservation

framework, the framework to identify habitat restoration priorities. The deadline for most of these initiatives is October 28, 2022. The analyst is currently re-evaluating all of these different initiatives in order to propose a revised action plan to the members of the subcommittee.

A member notes that the comments that the JBACE sent on cumulative effects, offsetting and habitat reserves represent a lot of content. The committee has been particularly active on this component, which should serve as a source of pride.

### **Caribou**

The Chairman provides an update on the federal initiatives in the file. He reminds the members that the JBACE sent information to ECCC in August 2022, upon request from the Ministry. He also mentioned that Minister Steven Guilbeault (ECCC) met with Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty during his visit to Quebec.

The Chairman suggests that a request be made to the parties for an update in the file at a later meeting.

### **Canada's Critical Minerals Strategy**

The Executive Director reminds the members of the consultation led by Natural Resources Canada and adds that a letter was sent on August 29, 2022. The JBACE submitted comments on streamlining regulatory processes, sustainable infrastructure, sustainable development and reconciliation. She also mentions that the Committee is on the mailing list to receive information regarding future consultations.

### **Climate change**

The Executive Director follows up on the fact sheet. Québec'ERE is now at the English translation stage and is currently experiencing some difficulty. The firm is considering changing translators. The file is progressing but there is no precise date yet for the delivery of the final product. The Executive Director will schedule a meeting with the subcommittee to discuss the next steps including, notably, the anticipated use of the fact sheet.

The Chairman suggests inviting representatives from each party to a meeting to provide an update on climate change issues. The Executive Director will work with the subcommittee to plan the meeting.

### **ADJOURN**

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

*Reviewed by Graeme Morin, Environmental Analyst*

*Adopted on November 30, 2022*

