



them that the draft regulation on the ZEV Standard had been published for consultation. Finally, the Secretariat had received contact from the invasive aquatic species (IAS) team of DFO for a preliminary discussion on IAS.

### ***Next meeting***

The 234<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in Gatineau on November 13, 2024. The members will check within their organizations to see if there is a place where the meeting could be held.

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

The Executive Director reminds members that she will be starting work on the budget for the next grant application.

She then explains that the administrators are currently liable for the credit card debt, which has a direct impact on their personal credit rating. It is not possible to change this situation at the current financial institution. To remedy this situation, the Secretariat Agent researched the possibility of obtaining a new company credit card without the administrator being held liable for the debt. The possibility was offered by Desjardins and a resolution is required. The members agreed to proceed with the change.

On a motion by Jean-Philippe Marcoux, seconded par Graeme Morin, the resolution regarding the change of credit card (see appendix 2) is adopted.

### ***Subcommittees***

No major changes at this time.

## **MEETING WITH CHIEF GILPIN**

The members met with Chief Christina Gilpin and Deputy Chief Arder Visitor. After a round of introductions, the Chair thanks the guests for coming and welcoming them to the community. She then explains the JBACE's mandate and membership. One member points out that the members are always happy to have the opportunity to go to the Territory better understand its challenges. The Executive Director adds that it is always very much appreciated to be able to meet with community representatives to get a better perspective on the issues from a local point of view.

The first topic discussed is waste management. Chief Gilpin explains what is at stake for the community. She adds that the team in charge of waste management is getting stronger, which makes it easier to manage. The community has a good eco-center, but it's getting small and needs more space. What's more, recovering materials such as metal is expensive. We need to find innovative solutions to be more efficient.

The discussions then turn to the greenhouse, now in its second year. It's a seasonal greenhouse at the moment, but it would be interesting to make it a year-round greenhouse. Community members and representatives also discuss the impacts of climate change, particularly on ice, wildlife and forest fires. This is followed by a discussion on forest fires in the summer of 2023.

In conclusion, the Chair thanks Chief Gilpin and Deputy Chief Visitor for taking the time to meet the members of the JBACE.

## **FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN**

### ***Objective 1.1: Evaluate the legislative framework of the environmental and social protection regime***

The Executive Director recalls that Catherine Choquette was hired to produce an inventory of the laws and regulations related to the JBACE's mandate in the Territory. A second version of the report was submitted in the fall of 2023. Following comments from members, Ms. Choquette's team made a number of changes. The Secretariat also prepared a preamble to explain the purpose of the report.

On a motion by Jean-Philippe Marcoux, seconded par Graeme Morin, the report and the preamble are adopted.

The members then discuss the publication of the report. The report will be posted on the new website pending translation. A note explained that the English translation would follow. One member also suggests including the report in a collection of documents that could be published for the JBNQA's 50th anniversary. The Executive Director will contact Ms. Choquette to see if she can handle the translation.

Now that the report has been adopted, it will be possible to identify areas for further study. The Secretariat will carry out a detailed study to identify the themes to be explored. The members decide to start by looking at the water framework. The subcommittee could then identify the scope to be examined.

***Objective 1.2: Evaluate the transparency of the environmental and social impact assessment and review process***

The Analyst mentions that a meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled for September 17, 2024. She adds that she has had a discussion with the Executive Secretary of COMEV and COMEX to complete a list of projects submitted to the COMEX between 2014 and 2024, which has been developed by the Secretariat. The discussion with the Executive Secretary highlighted various elements that would need to be taken into account. The Analyst continues by mentioning that a list of projects submitted for federal assessment has also been compiled from the IAAC register. She continued to draft the document explaining the committee's approach and to set up the grid that will be used. The meeting on September 17 will provide an opportunity to discuss the exact projects that will be studied by the JBACE and to validate the external approach to transparency.

***Objective 1.4: Provide recommendations for the consideration of cumulative effects in the environmental and social impact assessment and review process***

The Analyst explains that a first wave of interviews was completed for the data and regional planning strategies with CNG and DFO representatives. From these interviews, the analysts concluded that they were familiar with most of the data-related issues in the area. The subcommittee decided to go ahead with a recommendation focusing on the centralization of data.

The next steps in the data strategy will be to contact various stakeholders involved in initiatives of data centralization in Canada like the Northwest Territories Discovery Portal, the Biodiversité Québec organization, etc. Based on suggestions from some subcommittee members, the Secretariat will also contact members of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and Hydro-Québec in the next wave of interviews.

One member questions how the technicalities should be addressed and to whom the recommendations should be addressed. Another adds that several organizations have an interest in the JBACE's work. This approach is in line with the JBACE's role and could serve as inspiration for the committee's other work.

***Objective 2.2: Improve the visibility and communications of the JBACE***

The Executive Director presents the website design and the change requests that have been made. Members discuss the design and suggest removing the social media icons, as they are not being used at the moment. One member suggests that the Executive Director put her in touch with her organization to find the missing photos for the site. The site design is then approved by the members.

**PRESENTATION OF THE KATIVIK REGIONAL GOVERNMENT – DRAFT BY-LAW**

Émilie Dalpé-Turcotte and Véronique Gilbert, from the Kativik Regional Government (KRG), are participating remotely to present KRG's the draft *KRG By-Law Respecting Land Use and Social and Environmental Protection*. The presentation begins with a background on the *Kativik Act* and the *Sivunirmut Agreement*. It is also mentioned that the update of the Master Plan was adopted by the KRG Council in 2020.

Ms Dalpé-Turcotte explains the reasons behind the KRG's desire to develop the by-law. She then presents the various sections of the draft by-law. She added that the version members had in their hands was the one approved earlier this year. There have been a few changes since then, but she says that the JBACE can comment on the available version and that comments will be taken into account despite the changes.

The Executive Director asks for some clarification regarding the draft regulations and the deadline for commenting. Ms. Dalpé-Turcotte says that since the draft regulation must be filed with the MAMH in the next few weeks, it would be preferable to comment by the end of September 2024. However, the date could be pushed back slightly if necessary.

The next step at the municipal level is approval of the by-law by the MAMH, which will give rise to a great deal of discussion given the realities of the size of the territory. The current document will be modified according to the comments from the MAMH and the JBACE.

## **FILES**

### ***KRG's draft by-law***

Members discuss the KRG's draft by-law and potential comments from the JBACE. Discussions focus on the scope of the draft by-law and the KRG's jurisdiction. The Executive Director reiterates that the JBACE's comments must remain within the committee's mandate. The members decide that a short letter will be sent to emphasize the aspects affecting Category II lands and the importance of dialogue between the various parties involved. The environmental assessment subcommittee will look into the matter.

### ***Mining Act***

The Executive Director provides an overview of this issue. Bill 63 - An Act to amend the Mining Act and other provisions (PL63) was introduced last spring in the Assemblée nationale and is intended to make a number of major amendments to the Mining Act. On June 17, 2024, an initial information meeting was held with MRNF representatives, who presented the bill and answered questions. Another meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2024. Subcommittee members have already received the invitation, but all members are welcome to attend.

Specific consultation hearings on PL63 will begin on September 24, 2024 and run until October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. A number of organizations and experts will present their analyses of the bill and their recommendations. After discussions, the members are of the opinion that the JBACE will not ask to participate in the Parliamentary Committee but will submit a brief.

### ***Climate plan project of the ARBJ***

The Executive Director mentions that the JBACE received an invitation on August 30, 2024 to collaborate with the Administration régionale de la Baie James (ARBJ) in the development of the James Bay Climate Plan. She adds that the ARBJ's mandate focuses on Jamesians. The CNG has been informed of the initiative.

The members discuss the various options available to the JBACE, i.e. whether or not to cooperate in carrying out the mandate proposed by the ARBJ. Since the JBACE has not been directly involved and the initiative touches on aspects outside the JBACE's expertise, the Executive Director will send a reply to Mr. Traoré to inform him that the JBACE will not be participating in the exercise, but that we would be interested in being kept informed of further developments.

### ***Sectoral or regional environmental assessment***

The Executive Director explains that the JBACE had been asked by the KEAC Analysts to discuss sectoral or regional environmental assessment (SREA). The subject had been discussed at the previous meeting in June 2024, and it had been decided that the Secretariat would look into the matter and work with the subcommittee for an initial reflection. In the end, discussions only took place at Secretariat level, given the ongoing work and the summer holidays. The Analyst shares the Secretariat's thoughts and discusses the links between SREA and the cumulative effects file, and raises questions about the specific objective that could be targeted for the Territory, the added value between sectoral and regional assessments, and possible sectors of interest for a SREA. She adds that the members should ask themselves the following questions: considering the bill providing for an EESR for southern Quebec, does the JBACE want to work upstream or wait until it is tabled, and which subcommittee will examine the issue?

Following a discussion, the members are of the opinion that it is still premature to go further into the matter and that it is preferable to wait and see what will be proposed when the bill is tabled. The environmental assessment subcommittee will examine the issue at the appropriate time. When the bill is tabled, the JBACE will point out to the MELCCFP that it would be appropriate for a similar mechanism to be developed for the Territory; a letter will be sent to the MELCCFP, inspired by the one sent for the compensation mechanism for the loss of wetlands and bodies of water.

### ***Federal Impact Assessment Act***

The Analyst reviews the main points of the file following the Supreme Court of Canada's decision of October 2023. She adds that there is currently a consultation period on three IAAC initiatives: the *Physical Activities Regulations* (Project List), the *Designated Class of Projects Order*, and the *Indigenous Impact Assessment Co-Administration Agreement Regulations*.

She mentions that an info note was sent out in mid-August recommending further analysis of the amendments to the *Physical Activities Regulations* and the introduction of the *Indigenous Impact Assessment Co-Administration Agreement Regulations*. The subcommittee will meet on September 17, 2024 to discuss the comments to be made on the *Physical Activities Regulations*. With regard to the *Designated Class of Projects Order*, the Analyst points out that she had not recommended that the JBACE comment, considering that there is very little Crown land in the Territory and that the classes added represent negligible environmental effects in and of themselves. Finally, on the subject of the *Indigenous Impact Assessment Co-Administration Agreement Regulations*, she mentions that a more in-depth analysis of the document would be carried out in the coming weeks to see if any comments were required.

One member shares some of the CNG's concerns on consultation options and the issues involved in coordinating procedures under the Impact Assessment Act and Section 22.

### ***Permanent framework for managing lakeshores, riverbanks, littoral zones, flood zones and mobility zones***

The Analyst mentions that the JBACE was contacted on June 27, 2024 as part of the consultation on the project to modernize the regulatory framework for water environments (permanent regime) and on the project to establish a framework for flood protection works. The MELCCFP is modernizing the regulations to ensure the safety of Quebecers, to protect property and to preserve the environment. The consultation period for this project ends on 17 September 2024. Of all the regulations under consultation (new or amended), the Analyst analyzed the three new regulations and two of the proposed amendments. The other amended regulations that do not apply in the Territory as well as the 33 draft amendments for consistency purposes were not analyzed. An info note was shared with the subcommittee. The subcommittee met and worked on a draft letter that will be sent out before the end of the consultation period.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Jean-Philippe Marcoux, seconded par Graeme Morin, the meeting is adjourned.

***Prepared by Eva Wolf, Secretariat Officer, and Michèle Leduc-Lapierre, Executive Director  
Adopted on November 13, 2024.***

