



MINUTES OF THE 210th MEETING OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- DATE:** January 31, 2019
- LIEU:** Québec City (Édifice Marie-Guyart)
- PRESENT:** Jean-Yves Savaria, Canada, Chair
Judy Doré, Canada
Jean Picard, Canada
Chantal Otter Tétreault, CNG, Vice-Chair
Melissa Saganash, CNG
Pamela MacLeod, CNG
Maud Ablain, Québec
Mélanie Chabot, Québec
François Provost, Québec
Manon Cyr, Québec (by phone)
- Michèle Leduc-Lapierre, Executive Director
Graeme Morin, Environmental Analyst
- ABSENT:** Caroline Girard, Canada
Marc Dunn, CNG

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Members do a roundtable to introduce themselves.

On a motion by Jean Picard, seconded by Melissa Saganash, the agenda (see Appendix 1) was adopted with two additions in Varia.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF MEETINGS 208 AND 209 AND FOLLOW-UP ON ACTIONS FROM THE 208th MEETING

The Executive Director said that the minutes from meeting 208 was only available in French for the moment, but that it would be translated. The members decided to wait until they get the translation before adopting them and decided to adopt the minutes by email.

No modification was suggested for the minutes from meeting 209. On a motion by Melissa Saganash, seconded by Jean Picard, the minutes were adopted as is.

Actions :

- The members will send their comments by email for minutes from meeting 208;
- The Secretariat will have minutes from meeting 208 translated and then send them to the members for adoption;
- The members will adopt the minutes from meeting 208 by email.

ADMINISTRATION

Human resources policy

The AC is working on the development of the document with Karine Bergeron (external consultant). The French version is available on the website and an English translation will be sent shortly to the members. Any additional comments may be emailed and a teleconference between members will be scheduled if needed. The development of a code of ethics will be based on an existing document. The final version of the document including the code of ethics will be adopted at the next meeting.

Actions :

- The Secretariat will have the latest draft of the document translated;
- The AC will work with Karine Bergeron to revise the document;
- The members will adopt the policy at the next meeting.

Meeting with the Administrators

The members discussed the possibility of meeting with the Administrators to present the new Strategic Plan. They decided to begin with the Provincial Administrator at the next meeting in Québec City, the Cree Administrator at the next meeting on the Territory and the Federal Administrator later this year.

Actions :

- The JBACE will invite the Provincial Administrator to meet with us at the next meeting in April;
- The JBACE will invite the Cree Administrator to meet with us at the next meeting in the Territory early summer;
- The JBACE will invite the Federal Administrator to meet with us at a later meeting that could be held this fall in Ottawa or Gatineau.

Finances

The Executive Director presented the status of expenses as of December 31, 2018, and answered questions from the members. At the beginning of the next fiscal year, it is discussed to revise the chart of accounts to ensure better allocation of expenses. The computer archiving system is targeted as the Secretariat's next priority.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

The Executive Director presented the communication plan and the actions that would be undertaken.

A training on the website features was given by Mike Wong in December 2018, and this will allow the Secretariat to broaden its scope of action and optimize future exchanges of information with members. During the meeting, it was also discussed that Mike Wong could produce a video on the JBACE that would be posted on the website.

The members decided to create a subcommittee for the implementation of the communication plan. One of the roles of the subcommittee will be to put in place guidelines for the use of social media and the content to be broadcast in newsletters. The Cree Party will be represented by Melissa (with the support of the CNG Communications Department as required) and Canada will be represented by Judy. Quebec will send the name of a person to sit on the committee later.

It was suggested that the Secretariat Officer attend the JBACE meetings to prepare the minutes.

Actions :

- The Executive Director will enquire about the possibility of making short videos and add it to the plan;
- Québec will let the Executive Director who could be part of the subcommittee;
- When all the members will have been identified, the subcommittee will meet and begin the implementation of the plan;

- The Executive Director will review the schedule for certain projects and revise the plan accordingly;
- The Executive Director will ask the Secretariat Officer to attend next meetings to take notes and prepare the minutes.

INVITATION FROM THE COMEX TO HOLD A MEETING BETWEEN BOTH COMMITTEES

The President presented the invitation sent by the COMEX in November 2018. The members talked about the invitation and asked to have more details regarding the objectives of the meeting. They decided that, to begin with, the President and the Executive Director would meet with the COMEX. And since there might be a meeting with all committees later this year, this moment could be the appropriate time for a meeting between the members and the COMEX.

Actions :

- The Executive Director and the President will communicate with the COMEX to clarify the objectives and hold a bilateral meeting (meeting between Presidents and Executive Secretary/Director).

STATUS OF THE FILES

Presentation of the detailed integrated workplan

The Executive Director presented the detailed integrated workplan that was developed to present an overview of the work of the JBACE for the year 2019-2020. This tool will be used by the employees at the Secretariat to plan their work, but also used by the members to know what is ongoing and when they should be solicited. The members said that the plan was ambitious and that it should be reviewed to make sure the deadlines were established at the appropriate time (e.g. not during the holidays). The Executive Director mentioned that the plan was an evolving tool that would be updated regularly. The members suggested that certain already known actions should be added, like the review of draft regulations associated with Bill C-68 and C-69.

For the literature review on the integration of indigenous and local knowledge, members talked about the purpose of this initiative. Once the objective will have been identified, it will be easier to target the kind of external expertise to look for. The secretariat will prepare an information note on this subject and work with the subcommittee. The choice of which subcommittee should do this work will be identified later.

Action :

- The Secretariat will revise the plan (add C-68 and C-69, review certain deadlines) and upload the revised version on the website.

Climate change

The Analyst talked about the Climate Change Regional Forum that was held in Eastmain in November 2018 and said that he would send a summary to the members. A member provided an overview of Ouranos programming for 2019-2020 and highlights the need to integrate indigenous involvement as well as considerations of the JBNQA, in this programming.

The Analyst presented a proposal for a work plan on climate change. Three main activities are planned, which are the production of fact sheets based on the Ouranos report, the presentation of a webinar to share the information, and a regional forum on climate change with all the stakeholders of the Territory. The members talked about the objectives and target audience for the webinar and the event. It was suggested that two events could be held (one for the committees stemming from the JBNQA and another with a larger audience). Several items remain to be clarified before having a plan that could be approved by the members. The Analyst and the subcommittee will continue their work on the plan and present a new proposal at the next meeting.

Actions :

- The Analyst will review the work plan and send it to the members of the subcommittee;
- The subcommittee will meet to approve the plan.

Cumulative effects

The Executive Director reminded the members that she would be part of the Roundtable for the creation of the Indigenous Center for Expertise for Cumulative Impact Management that will be held in Victoria (BC) on February 20-21, 2019. She described the objectives of the roundtable. A member mentioned that there are discussions regarding the possibility to create something similar in Québec. The Victoria meeting will be a good occasion to connect with other stakeholders and help with the information gathering that begins with Steps 1 and 2 of the Cumulative Effects Work Plan that was approved in December 2018. The analyst mentioned that this work will begin shortly.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Analyst summarized the meeting that was held between the members of the subcommittee and representatives of the MELCC regarding the development of the draft regulations on strategic environmental assessment. Prior to the meeting, the JBACE prepared a discussion document that was sent to the MELCC in which the committee presented some of its initial concerns regarding the proposed regulations.

During the meeting, the document also served as a basis and guided the discussion. The meeting allowed the MELCC to ask questions that we will answer in writing in the upcoming weeks. The meeting also clarified certain points for the JBACE. Finally, participants agreed that the JBACE should review MELCC documents when appropriate.

The Analyst will prepare a summary of the meeting as well as a draft answer to the MELCC questions and send the documents to the subcommittee for them to review, then for the members for approval. The JBACE will stay in contact with the MELCC for the evolution of this file.

Actions :

- The Analyst will prepare a summary of the meeting between the subcommittee and the MELCC and send it around;
- The Analyst will prepare an answer to the MELCC questions and send it to the members for validation.

Review of the tactical forest management plans (PAFIT) 2018-2023

The Analyst talked progress made in this file. During a preparation meeting with Le groupe CAF, it was decided that the indicators and criteria would be delivered by the end of February 2019 and the questionnaire by the end of April 2019. Members of the subcommittee were invited to attend a teleconference with Le groupe CAF on February 6, 2019, to validate the mandate and the action plan.

Actions :

- The Analyst will send an invitation to the members of the subcommittee for the teleconference with Le groupe CAF on February 6, 2019.

Woodland Caribou and other files related to fauna and flora

The Executive Director summarized the North American Caribou Workshop that was held in Ottawa from October 29 to November 2, 2018, and for which the main theme was “Working together”. Significant emphasis was put on indigenous participation in conservation activities, as well as the integration of indigenous knowledge. The program is available on the website and the Executive Director had a copy of the conference booklet, which she circulated to members.

The Analyst talked about the upcoming work for the subcommittee and it will be necessary to meet soon, especially to talk about the sharing of Tyler Rudolph's report and the presence of Le groupe CAF at the next meeting during the presentations from ECCC and the MFFP. He said that the work on caribou made the employees of the secretariat think. It would be nice to think about what the JBACE wants to do in other wildlife issues and it might be nice to have a list of species of interest to know which species to work on. Members agreed on the need for a clear list of species of interest to the JBACE, based on species listed in the Species at Risk Act, among others.

Actions :

- The subcommittee will meet shortly to talk about the report and the presence of Le groupe CAF at the next meeting;
- The Analyst will prepare a list of reserved or coveted, vulnerable, threatened or endangered species in the Territory to better mark the species of interest for the JBACE.

JBACE guide on public participation for proponents

The Analyst discussed the progress made in this file since the last meeting. The guide is now ready for the final approval, mostly for the design. Certain modifications were suggested by the members during the meeting, and those who didn't have time to take a look prior to the meeting will send their comments to the Analyst. In response to a question, the analyst explained that several committees and external collaborators participated in the revision of the guide and had the opportunity to comment.

Once the guide is completed, the secretariat will send it to the people, organizations, committees and agencies that appear on the distribution list developed for that purpose. The guide will also be available on the website and shared on social media. Members will be invited to share it within their network.

A member said that it could be possible to do a presentation at the next AQEI conference about the guide. The secretariat will contact the conference organizers and will share the information with the members.

Actions :

- The Analyst will make the suggested modifications and have a new map (map of the Territory, p. 6) produced;;
- Quebec members will send the disclaimer regarding the map of traplines (p. 10) to the CNG and to the Analyst;
- Once the modifications are done, the secretariat will distribute it;
- The secretariat will inquire about the opportunity to make a presentation about the guide at the next AQEI conference.

Follow-up – Bill C-68 and C-69

Bill C-68 – Modifications to the Fisheries Act

It was said that Bill C-68 is expected to receive Royal Assent in June 2019 and the draft regulations should be available by the end of summer 2019. The Secretariat will continue to monitor and inform members of any development.

Bill C-69 – Impact Assessment Act

Royal Assent is also expected in June 2019 but regulations related to fish habitat will come into effect later. Here too, the secretariat will continue its watchful work and inform members of any development.

VARIA

AQEI webinars (Directives for impact assessment (Southern Québec) and Human rights and IA)

The Analyst summarized the content of the webinars presented by the AQEI and said that he will send an information note to the members for each webinar.

Contaminated sites

The Analyst will prepare a revised list of contaminated sites listed on the federal territory and share it with members at the next meeting. He suggested discussing it at the next meeting in order to re-evaluate the interest of this file for the JBACE.

Actions :

- The Analyst will review the list of contaminated sites;
- The members will discuss the interest of continuing this file at the next meeting.

Invitations

The Analyst presented two invitations received by the JBACE, one sent by the FNQLSDI to participate in a workshop on Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs) on February 19 and 20, 2019, and another at the Université Laval to attend a roundtable on the resilience of cities and communities to climate change, February 18, 2019. The Executive Director will analyze the impact on the workload of the secretariat and make a decision on the analyst's involvement.

NEXT MEETING

The members decided that the next meeting will be held in April 2019 in Québec City in order to plan a meeting with the Provincial Administrator. The weeks of April 8 and April 15 are preferred, and the availability of the Administrator will determine the date of the meeting. The director will follow up with the members.

Action:

- The Executive Director will contact the office of the Provincial Administrator to inquire about his availabilities in order to plan the next meeting during the week of April 8 or 15.

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

Prepared on March 21, 2019

Adopted on July 17, 2019

