

The Executive Director presents an overview of the 2019-2020 results and the revised 2020-2021 projections revised according to the changes stemming from the pandemic. The members discussed the possible cancellation of the meeting on the Territory due to the pandemic and talked about how saved funds could be reallocated to other activities that need more funding. The members decided not to set aside the idea of going on the Territory during the fiscal year and not to reallocate the funds for the moment.

The Executive Director explained that for planning and budgetary purposes, it would be best if the subcommittees could establish a list of activities requiring funds. The agenda of the meetings will include a discussion period on the potential actions and deliverables that will require funds.

Annual Report

The Executive Director presented the draft design of the Annual Report and thanked the members for their participation in the preparation of the report. The submission deadline is June 30, 2020, but it should be completed by then. A new addition at the end of this year's report is a table summarizing the actions of the JBACE according to the strategic areas of activity set out in the Strategic Plan. The members agreed that this addition is relevant. Due to current circumstances, the members agreed to send the Annual Report by courier instead of using traditional mail.

Next meeting

The members shared their opinion on the option of going on the Territory for the September meeting in light of the pandemic. The JBACE will inform the communities of its intention and will make a decision in accordance with the communities' wishes regarding our presence. The members of the Administrative Committee will track the situation and the meeting could be held via videoconference if needed. A meeting notice will be sent to hold the dates on the calendar. In case of a change, a modification will be sent.

COMMUNICATION

Map of the Territory

The new map of the Territory is clearer and less busy than the previous versions. The Executive Director pointed out that the new map was at no cost as it was produced by the GIS department of the CNG. The members validated the map and it will be used in the Annual Report and on the JBACE website. It will also be sent to the COMEX.

Website and social media

The Communications Subcommittee decided to move forward with the use of Facebook and Twitter in order to create a momentum and ensure a constant presence of the JBACE on social media. The publications will also redirect the public to the JBACE website. A plan to improve the website is in development. It will include, among other things, the addition of webpages that will share information on important issues for the JBACE. The members pointed out the importance of analyzing the types of users visiting the website. A member will send a document to help with planning the revision of the website.

FILES

Cumulative Impacts

The Analyst informed the members that the subcommittee held two videoconferences to analyze the issues in this file in order to better focus the JBACE's work. The subcommittee wants to adopt a pragmatic and constructive approach to identify potential solutions to the issues related to cumulative impacts. This kind of approach will have more impact on decision makers. A presentation will be given to the members at the next meeting. In the meanwhile, the subcommittee reference and working documents are available on the cloud.

The Analyst pointed out that the JBACE is not ready to meet with COMEX yet to talk about this file. It is better to deepen the analysis in order to identify well-prepared talking points. The Analyst mentioned that the members of the subcommittee recommended to send a letter to the COMEX presenting all the files the committee is working on and suggesting a meeting for a more general discussion. The letter will be sent once the new Chair is appointed.

Climate change

Green Economy Plan¹

The Executive Director reminded the members that the JBACE was involved in the coordination of the workshop held on the Territory in November 2019 in the context of the development of the Plan. The report is being prepared and it will summarize the discussions that were held between participants without providing an analysis of the exchanges.

There is no official date for the tabling of the Plan, but it should be available this fall.

Project titled *Portrait climatique régional en climat de référence et futur en soutien à l'analyse des impacts et de l'adaptation aux changements climatiques sur le territoire Eeyou Istchee Baie-James, du nord de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue et du Nunavik* of the Ministère du Transport du Québec (MTQ)

The Executive Director reminded the members that the COMEX recommended the participation of the JBACE in the projects a few years ago. After being on hold, the project was reanimated recently and the Executive Director participated in the first meeting in May. Representatives from several provincial ministries and the Cree Nation Government attended, as well as employees of Ouranos and the INRS who are the two organizations that are leading the project.

The objective of the project is to develop tools to help decision making in Eeyou Istchee James Bay, Nunavik, and northern Abitibi-Témiscamingue. It will develop climatic and hydrological knowledge for these regions in order to assess how to include climate change in decision making processes relating to the MTQ work. The study of past climate indicators (e.g. freezing rain, precipitation) will make it possible to develop future indicators, guidelines that will help decision-making for any future intervention. The Executive Director explained that the discussions in the meeting were mainly focused on data collection (inventory of weather stations available in the territory, other potential source of data) and on the schedule and deliverables (e.g. reports, database, maps, articles). Much of this data will be made public. The meeting also raised the issue of developing knowledge transfer activities and this will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The project is spread over two years. The first year will involve collecting more data and the second year will be dedicated to the production of prototype maps and information tools. The final report will be published in February 2022.

¹ JBACE translation for "Plan pour une économie verte – PEV"

The project will not require much involvement of the JBACE and will allow interaction with other ministries than those with whom we are more familiar. It's a good opportunity to get improve the JBACE's visibility. The JBACE can also bring a tripartite perspective given the absence of a federal government representative on the committee.

Fact sheets

The purpose of the fact sheets is to make information from the Ouranos report that the JBACE published in 2018 accessible to the general public. A firm specialized in outreach has been recommended for the production of these fact sheets. Members will be informed of the developments in this matter at the appropriate time.

PAFIT

The Analyst informed the members that the English version of the report was received last week and was just sent to the subcommittee for validation. It is a good reflection of the French version which takes into consideration the subtleties of language that is sometimes difficult to translate. Once validated, the report will be sent to those who were interviewed during the review.

The next step for the subcommittee will be to discuss the preparation of a presentation that summarizes the information in plain language with the objective of presenting a webinar, the production of fact sheets, and the identification of the relevant sections to translate into Cree. The subcommittee will ensure that it identifies the target audience.

The Analyst mentioned that the JBACE received an official response from the MFFP to the recommendations and opportunities for improvement that were listed in the report. A meeting was held between the subcommittee and regional planners from the MFFP to discuss the content of the report and another meeting could be scheduled.

Request from the Cree Nation of Mistissini

The Analyst mentioned that on May 28, 2020, the JBACE received a request from the Cree Nation of Mistissini to comment a draft *Environmental Protection Law*. The Analyst explained that the JBACE received similar requests from communities in the past and suggested that the Subcommittee on Environmental Assessment review the request.

The members discussed the request in relation to the mandate of the JBACE and Section 22 of the JBNQA. They ask that an official request come directly from the local administration, and that the request include more details regarding the community's needs. The Analyst will contact the person who sent the request and the subcommittee will then evaluate it.

Federal *Impact Assessment Act*

The Environmental Assessment Subcommittee is active, but it needs a federal member. The Analyst suggested to include the new member from Canada who works at the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. The members approved this choice, but the Secretariat should contact that person to propose the offer.

The federal *Impact Assessment Act* came into force in August 2019 and several implementation tools are being prepared, including the *Practitioner's Guide to Federal Impact Assessments* that is already available online. The JBACE received a request to comment two chapters of the guide: chapter 3.6 (*Indigenous Knowledge under the Impact Assessment Act: Procedures for Working with Indigenous Communities*) and 3.7 (*Protecting Confidential Indigenous Knowledge under the Impact Assessment Act*). These are documents addressed to project proponents and federal review committees. There is no deadline to submit comments and a subcommittee meeting will be schedule to discuss the file.

MANDATE OF THE JBACE

The members discussed the need to review the description of the JBACE mission that is used in the committee's communications. The mandate is clearly mentioned in Section 22 of the JBACE, but the mission statement is not always consistent and certain parts may be confusing. A clear, short and precise mission statement could also be used in communication material to promote the committee and may also be used as a starting point for the development of the next strategic plan.

The members created a subcommittee to work on this file. If needed, the committee could seek assistance from an external firm. This will be discussed during the first meeting of the subcommittee. The Executive Director will coordinate the work of the subcommittee and will schedule a first meeting in the coming week.

ADJOURN

Prepared by Michèle Leduc-Lapierre, Executive Director

Reviewed by Graeme Morin, Environmental Analyst

Adopted on September 15, 2020

