



MINUTES OF THE 217th MEETING OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE

September 15, 2020

LOCATION

Videoconference

PRESENT

Maud Ablain, Québec, Chair

Caroline Chabot, Québec

Mélanie Chabot, Québec

Manon Cyr, Québec

Suzie Boudreau, Canada

Alexandre-Guy Côté, Canada

Madeleine Green, Canada, Vice-Chair

Audrée Ross, Canada (morning only)

Marc Dunn, Cree Nation Government

Kelly Leblanc, Cree Nation Government

Melissa Saganash, Cree Nation Government

Chantal Tétreault, Cree Nation Government

Michèle Leduc-Lapierre, Executive Director

Graeme Morin, Environmental Analyst

Eva Wolf, Secretariat Officer

OBSERVERS

Miles Smart, Executive Secretary, Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (replacing Serge Tremblay, Chair)

Fatou Wade, Policy Analyst, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (afternoon only, replacing Audrée Ross)

GUESTS

John Paul Murdoch, Cree Nation Government (for item #2)

Audrée Dumouchel, Corinne Proux, Marie Andrée Hamel, Alexandre Richard, Environment and Climate Change Canada (for item #7)

Julie Veillette, Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (for item #8)

WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

PRESENTATION – LA GRANDE ALLIANCE

Mr. John Paul Murdoch from the CNG, presented an overview of La Grande Alliance. He described the origin of the agreement and explained how the parties agreed upon it. He then summarized the main points using a few examples.

ADMINISTRATION

Minutes 216

Regarding the MTQ item, a member suggested the addition of the project's name. On a motion by Chantal Tétreault, seconded by Madeleine Green, the minutes from meeting 216 are adopted with the addition.

Follow-up on finance

The Executive Director reminds the members that the comparative statement is available on the cloud every month and then presents the financial status of the Committee. She mentions that certain budgetary items are difficult to plan in light of the uncertainty due to COVID. The expenses for meetings and travel will be lower than planned since meetings on the Territory, as well as in-person meetings, are now held virtually.

In time for the next meeting, the subcommittees will need to produce a list of actions to undertake for the remaining of the year, and next year. This will facilitate the planning of expenses for the following months and the preparation of the budget for 2021-2022.

Actions:

- The Executive Director and the Analyst will contact the subcommittees to inquire about potential actions that would require funds.
- The Administrative Committee will review the budget according to the requests of the subcommittees.

Expense authorization process

The Executive Director presents the new expense authorization process that will optimize decision-making regarding expenses made by the Secretariat. The process was recommended by the Administrative Committee.

On a motion by Suzie Boudreau, seconded by Caroline Chabot, the process is adopted.

Dates for next meetings

The Executive Director suggests to establish a calendar for the next four meetings. The members suggest to use Doodle polls to fix the dates.

Action:

- The Executive Director will send a Doodle poll for each of the next four meetings.

Performance reviews

This item is discussed in closed session.

MISSION

This item is deferred to the next meeting.

PRESENTATION – WASTEWATER SYSTEMS EFFLUENT REGULATIONS

Ms. Aurée Dumouchel, Corinne Proux, Marie Andrée Hamel, and Mr. Alexandre Richard from Environment and Climate Change Canada are invited to present the federal initiatives regarding the regulations on wastewater. The members inquire about the scope of the regulations and the proposed changes with regard to the communities in the Territory. A member mentions that a meeting between the CNG and ECCC will be held, a meeting that the JBACE may attend. After discussion, the members agree on the participation of the JBACE in the meeting. This will allow the collection of more information in order to assess the Committee's involvement on the matter.

PRESENTATION – GREEN ECONOMY PLAN (PLAN POUR UNE ÉCONOMIE VERTE)

Ms. Julie Veillette from the MELCC updates the members regarding the development of the 2030 Green Economy Plan (Plan pour une économie verte – PEV). She elaborates on the activities that were carried out for the preparation of the plan, including the workshop held in Ouje-Bougoumou in November 2019. In addition to the PEV, an implementation plan (Plan de mise en oeuvre – PMO) is in development. The PMO will cover a five-year period and will be updated annually. The PEV and the PMO should be published in the coming months.

FILES

Cumulative impacts

The Analyst mentions that the latest draft of the working document is available on the cloud. The next step for the subcommittee is to identify priority issues and possible solutions. The Analyst suggests that an internal work meeting be eventually held and the members agreed on the relevance of such an exercise.

The Analyst also informs the members that the Indigenous Centre on Cumulative Effects is looking for people for the Board and for the Technical Advisory Committee.

Bill 46 – *An Act to amend the Natural Heritage Conservation Act and other provisions*

In light of a conflict of interest, Mélanie Chabot will not participate in the discussions or the drafting of the brief and will not provide comments relating to this file.

The members agreed on the relevance for the JBACE to submit a brief to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment of the Assemblée nationale during the consultations on the bill. The Chair and the Analyst will participate in the hearing. An ad hoc subcommittee is created to work on the file.

Actions:

- Members of the ad hoc subcommittee will meet as soon as possible to work on the brief
- The members will review the brief

Climate change

The Executive Director mentions that the subcommittee held a meeting with Québec'ERE to launch the project to develop a fact sheet on climate change. Members of the subcommittee will first hash out the information that will appear in the fact sheet. Production may begin thereafter.

PAFIT

The Analyst explained that a webinar was held on September 2. Attendees came from the subcommittee, along with participants from the MFFP and forestry companies. The recording of the presentation part of the meeting is available through a link on the JBACE website. The subcommittee is currently working on the approach for the next review.

Fisheries Act

A member mentioned that a presentation is now available on the cloud. She suggested to hold a subcommittee meeting and will invite members interested in participating. A more detailed presentation will then be given on the changes made to the *Fisheries Act*. She also mentioned that there are funding programs for Cree communities who wish to participate more actively in the process of changing the *Fisheries Act*.

The analyst specified that implementing instruments for the *Fisheries Act*, such as codes of practice and habitat protection policy, could be relevant topics for the JBACE to analyze

Cree Nation of Mistissini request

The Analyst explains that a meeting was held with a representative of Mistissini to clarify certain aspects of the request. The meeting was useful and several items for warranting comments were identified. The questions used during the meeting are available on the cloud for the members. The questions focused on the main objectives of the exercise, as well as on the intention and nature of the Nation's request. The deadline has been pushed back because of the current situation such that time remains for the JBACE to complete the analysis.

Deposit and selective collection

The JBACE received an invitation to comment on the procedures for modernizing the deposit and selective collection systems. The Executive Director summarizes the main points from the information meeting she attended and explains the general ideas of the initiative. A bill will be tabled in the coming weeks to amend the *Environment Quality Act* in order to give the government the ability to establish, by regulation, the means to implement the revision. The regulations will be developed during the winter and should be tabled in the spring of 2021 for consultation.

A member mentions that the Cree Nation Government is working on an assessment of the situation on the Territory. The JBACE will be informed of developments in the file.

The members discuss the relevance of the JBACE's involvement. It is decided that the Executive Director will participate in the MELCC working group on legislative and regulatory provisions. The committee will continue to gather information in order to evaluate our level of involvement in the coming weeks.

Action:

- The Secretariat will contact the responsible person at the MELCC to participate in the working group

Critical and strategic minerals

The Analyst mentions that the JBACE produced a comment letter for the MERN in the context of the consultation for the critical and strategic minerals file. The members will be informed of the evolution of the file.

Québec Mining Association

The Chair mentions that the JBACE received a letter from the QMA to congratulate the Chair for her appointment.

Meeting with other committees

This item is deferred to the next meeting

ADJOURN

On a motion by Marc Dunn, seconded by Mélanie Chabot, the meeting is adjourned.

Prepared by Michèle Leduc-Lapierre, Executive Director

Reviewed by Graeme Morin, Environmental Analyst

Adopted on November 26, 2020



217th Meeting of the JBACE

Videoconference, September 15, 2020, 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To join the webinar, click here: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/153528613>
For audio, follow the instructions on the webinar or call 1-647-497-9391, access code 153-528-613

- 1. 8:45** Welcome, presentations and adoption of the agenda
- 2. 9:00** Presentation: La Grande Alliance (John Paul Murdoch, CNG)
 - Presentation
 - Discussion
- 3. 10:00** Administration
 - Adoption of the minutes from meeting 216
 - Follow-up on finance and expense authorization process
 - Dates for the next meetings
 - Performance reviews
- 4. 10:30** Break
- 5. 10:45** Mission
 - Summary of the work of the subcommittee
 - Discussion on the mission statement and other related items
 - Adoption of the mission statement
 - Letter adoption process (discussion)
- 6. 11:30** Lunch
- 7. 1:00** Presentation: Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations (Audrée Dumouchel, Corinne Proux, Marie Andrée Hamel, Alexandre Richard, ECCC)
 - Presentation
 - Discussion
- 8. 2:00** Presentation: Green Economy Plan (Julie Veillette, MELCC)
 - Presentation
 - Discussion
- 9. 3:00** Break
- 10. 3:15** Files
 - Cumulative impact: work plan (update – 15 minutes)
 - Bill 46 (discussion)
 - Climate change: fact sheets (update)
 - PAFIT (update)
 - *Fisheries Act* (presentation by Suzie Boudreau and discussion – 30 minutes)
 - Request from the Cree Nation of Mistissini (update)
 - Selective collection and deposit (discussion)
 - Mines: CSM (update)
 - AMQ – Letter received and opportunity of collaboration (information)
 - Meeting with other committees (discussion) (time permitting)
- 11. 4:30** Adjourn