



MINUTES OF THE 219th MEETING OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE

March 11, 2021

LOCATION

Videoconference

PRESENT

Caroline Chabot, Québec

Mélanie Chabot, Québec

Manon Cyr, Québec

Suzie Boudreau, Canada

Alexandre-Guy Côté, Canada

Audrée Ross, Canada

Marc Dunn, Cree Nation Government

Kelly LeBlanc, Cree Nation Government

Chantal Tétreault, Cree Nation Government

Michèle Leduc-Lapierre, Executive Director

Graeme Morin, Environmental Analyst

Eva Wolf, Secretariat Officer

ABSENT

Madeleine Green, Canada

Melissa Saganash, Cree Nation Government

WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On a motion by Kelly LeBlanc, seconded by Caroline Chabot, the agenda (see appendix 1) was adopted.

MINUTES OF THE 218TH MEETING

A minor modification was suggested.

On a motion by Audrée Ross, seconded by Caroline Chabot, minutes of the 218th meeting were adopted with modification.

FILES

Fisheries Act

The Analyst informed the members that all the documents for this file, including those from DFO, are available on the cloud.

He mentioned that the subcommittee held a meeting a few weeks ago, and developed an approach. Five elements are proposed for consultation by the DFO. The JBACE will focus on cumulative effects, habitat offsetting and banking policies, and the prescribed works and waters regulation. The Analyst is drafting a discussion document that will be submitted to the subcommittee prior to their next meeting.

Per the Analyst, to help prepare the comments, it would be preferable to organize a meeting with the DFO to obtain information focused at a more regional level than a national. The deadline for reviewing the policies and providing comments is in June, which allows time for the JBACE to arrange a meeting with regional experts from DFO. The member appointed by DFO will inquire about the availability of regional experts to meet with the JBACE.

Canada Water Agency

All the documents, including the February 8, 2021 info note, are available on the cloud.

ECCC launched a consultation regarding the creation of a new entity, the Canada Water Agency. Current documentation is general. The Agency would cover the all of Canada. It is suggested that a meeting should be planned between ECCC and the JBACE quickly, in order to benefit from an adapted presentation and a discussion

focused on issues relevant in the James Bay Territory. Doing so would facilitate the drafting of comments, as required, by the June 2021 deadline. The Secretariat will communicate with ECCC to schedule a meeting.

Mid-Canada Line

The Analyst mentioned that he participated in a meeting in December 2020 and shared the information he received. He reminded the members that the Mid-Canada Line has been an issue for the JBACE in the past, and the Pointe Louis XIV, located in a protected area highly used by Cree hunters, was of greatest concern. As most of the other sites are generally located in Inuit territory, the JBACE did not pursue much interaction on the issue. The members discussed the file, and an update presentation for information purposes will be requested from the MELCC.

The Analyst also mentioned that the MELCC representative coordinating the work on the sites had a number of questions regarding the impact assessment procedures, soliciting JBACE insight. A member will connect the representative with the appropriate persons at the MELCC regarding these procedures.

Climate change

The Executive Director updated the members on the development of the fact sheet. The content of a first draft is being revised. The work was to be completed by March 31 2021 per the contract, but the deadline will be extended. The Executive Director described the options for the JBACE regarding the contract. The members decided to leave the decision in the hands of the AC.

The Executive Director then presented the first draft of the design of the fact sheet and reminded the members that the objective is to present the information from the Ouranos report and to put forward its highlights regarding climate change on the Territory. The target audience is general (informed or uninformed), and includes the Cree. The members shared their opinions on the design of the fact sheet.

She also mentioned that she had a discussion regarding the Plan for a Green Economy and its implementation plan. She said that a presentation could be possible in a future meeting, once the implementation plan is more developed.

Cumulative Effects

The Analyst mentioned that he is working on the minutes from the meeting that was held in December 2020. He also summarized his ideas regarding draft strategies that will have to be discussed with the subcommittee regarding the potential areas of actions for the JBACE. He noted that the reflections in this file can be linked to the work of the Fisheries Act subcommittee which deals with the impacts of cumulative effects. The subcommittee is waiting for the nomination of a member from Québec to complete the team. It will then be possible to resume the work.

The Analyst also mentioned that the general assembly of the AQEI was canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic and that the 2021 assembly will likely take place in the spring of 2021. The main theme of the conference is cumulative effects. The JBACE was invited to present an overview of its work since 2015 and the members agreed to such a presentation.

PAFIT

The revised PAFITs were adopted. The Analyst is currently reading one of the PAFIT that he considers representative of the region and is comparing it with the recommendations made by the JBACE. He mentioned that some recommendations will be integrated in the next PAFITs. Another element to consider is the Mixedwood Stands Management Strategy that was recently adopted and published. An info note on these two elements will be prepared and submitted to the subcommittee.

The discussions with different interested parties led to a consensus about the possibility to plan an in-person workshop next fall, if the health situation allows, for the preparation of the next PAFIT review. A subcommittee

meeting will be scheduled to talk about the revised PAFITs, the preparatory work for the next review, the Mixedwood Stands Management Strategy, and the targeted review of the forestry regime.

Mission

The subcommittee will meet to discuss this in the spring, the discussion was thus postponed for a later meeting.

List of issues and files

The Executive Director explained that, following the last meeting, the secretariat started to prepare a document identifying priority issues and files for the JBACE in order to stay current and to be more proactive. Members proposed that the document be made available to them for comment. Subsequently, the AC can then look into the matter.

Protected areas

An update of the file is presented to the members. Since last meeting's presentation, approximately 10,000 km² of new land has been added, i.e., four new reserves of territories for the purposes of protected areas (RTFAP) and 6 extensions of RTFAP. The context of the Grande Alliance, as well as all the work and information collected during the regional planning process in Eeyou Istchee James Bay allowed for these last-minute improvements as part of the work to reach the target of 17% protected areas in mainland Quebec by December 2020. In short, the total area of the 23 new RTFAPs in Eeyou Istchee James Bay, submitted to the Quebec government for approval, is 39,143 km². This will bring the percentage of protected areas in Eeyou Istchee Baie-James to around 23%. Ultimately, the objective for these territories is the creation of biodiversity reserves.

BAPE Commission

The Executive Director informed members that an information note will be made available to them shortly and that several documents are already available on the cloud for consultation.

The mandate of the BAPE Commission is to focus on the inventory and the management of ultimate waste as covered by the *Regulation respecting the landfilling and incineration of residual materials*. By ultimate waste, we mean wastes that cannot be recovered or reclaimed, and this definition may differ from one territory to another. For the work pertaining to southern Quebec, the Commission set up a consultation with four main components: public hearings, targeted thematic reflection workshops, a questionnaire for site managers and a citizens' assembly. A fifth specific component focuses on consultation with Indigenous communities and the JBACE was contacted for the consultation in the Territory. The Executive Director informed members that the Commission has asked some ministries and other agencies to produce sectoral reports to seek information and these reports are now available on the cloud.

Following a meeting to which all the members were invited, a subcommittee was created to work on the file. During the first meeting of the subcommittee, the members discussed different possibilities for the consultation on the Territory as well as the role of the JBACE in the process. The discussions will continue in the following weeks.

Modernization of deposit and selective collection

The Executive Director provided an overview and discussed developments since the JBACE meeting in November. She mentioned that she shared an information note with the members of the subcommittee to provide an update and recommend a way forward. She proposed to continue to participate in the meetings of the working groups and to report any relevant information to the members.

As part of the modernization, Éco Entreprises Québec is expected to be the designated management organization. Éco Entreprises Québec proposed to meet with the JBACE and other representatives of the Territory in the last week of March or the first week of April 2021 in order to understand the various issues in the Territory.

JBNQA simulation

The JBACE received a request to participate in an event organized by the Gordon Foundation with the Cree Nation Youth Council. This is a JBNQA-related simulation for emerging leaders. They are looking for experts to support the attendees at the event. The Analyst could participate and offer his expertise. Members discussed the event and the Analyst's potential participation. The secretariat may make a decision on the matter.

ADMINISTRATION

Follow-up on finance

The Executive Director reminded members that comparative statements are available on the cloud every month. She presented the results as of the end of February as well as the forecasts for the end of the fiscal year. She mentioned that the JBACE spent less than expected during the year, but that this was due to the pandemic: no travel, no face-to-face meetings, conference cancellations. A number of budget items will exceed forecasts, especially due to the renewal of IT equipment to maintain the efficiency of the secretariat in a telework situation.

Chair for 2021-2022

The Executive Director reminded members that there will be a new Chair and Vice-Chair on April 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year. For 2021-2022, these positions will be filled by members appointed by the Cree party.

Next meeting

Three days were set aside for the next scheduled meeting that was to be held in the Territory in June 2021. Due to the pandemic, travel to the Territory is not possible. The Executive Director suggested to shorten the meeting to only one day. A Doodle poll will be sent to the members to choose the date.

A member announced that she won't attend the meeting and will be replaced because she will be on maternity leave.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Manon Cyr, seconded by Marc Dunn, the meeting was adjourned.

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

Reviewed by Graeme Morin, Environmental Analyst

Adopted on June 9, 2021



219th Meeting of the JBACE

Videoconference, March 11, 2021, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

To join the webinar, click here: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/301236925>

For audio, follow the instructions on the webinar or call 1-647-497-9391, access code 301-236-925

1. 9:00 Welcome, presentations and adoption of the agenda
2. 9:05 Adoption of the minutes from meeting 218
3. 9:10 Files (*a break will be held at an opportune time*)
 - Fisheries Act (update)
 - Canadian Water Agency (discussion)
 - Mid-Canada Line (update and discussion)
 - Climate change – info sheet (update)
 - Cumulative impacts – work plan (update)
 - PAFIT (update)
 - Mission (update)
 - List of issues and files (update and discussion)
 - Protected areas (update from Mélanie)
 - BAPE Commission (update and discussion)
 - Deposit and selective collection (update and discussion)
 - Participation in the JBNQA simulation
4. 11:30 Administration
 - Follow-up on finances
 - Chair for 2021-2022
 - Next meeting
5. 12:00 Adjourn