



MINUTES OF THE 191st MEETING OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

(ADOPTED)

DATE: February 11, 2015

PLACE: Embassy Suites Montréal hotel, 208 Saint-Antoine Ouest, Salle Saint-Laurent

PRESENT: Melissa Saganash, Cree Nation Government (CNG)
Line Choinière, Canada
Manon Cyr, Québec
Pascale Labbé, Québec
Jean-Pierre Laniel, Québec, Vice-Chairperson
John Paul Murdoch, CNG (afternoon only)
Chantal Otter Tétreault, CNG
Jean Picard, Canada, Chairperson

Marc Jetten, Executive Secretary
Graeme Morin, Environmental Analyst

ABSENT: Caroline Girard, ex-officio member, Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating
Committee (HFTCC)
Anne-Marie Gaudet, Canada
Guy Héту, Québec
Ginette Lajoie, CNG
Monique Lucie Sauriol, Canada

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion by Chantal Otter Tétreault, seconded by Jean-Pierre Laniel, the agenda was adopted as amended.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 189TH AND 190TH MEETINGS

On motion by Melissa Saganash, seconded by Manon Cyr, the minutes of the 189th meeting (November 25, 2014) were adopted as presented.

On motion by Chantal Otter Tétreault, seconded by Line Choinière, the minutes of the 190th meeting (January 9, 2015) were adopted as amended.

3. ADMINISTRATION

a. *Budget proposal for fiscal 2015-2016*

The secretary presented the statement of expenditure in relation to the current-year budget. He adjusted the budget proposal for fiscal 2015-2016 based on changes in certain budget items.

On motion by Jean-Pierre Laniel, seconded by Chantal Otter Tétrault, the budget proposal for fiscal 2015-2016 was adopted. It will be sent to the funding bodies to support the JBACE's budget requests for fiscal 2015-2016.

A member mentioned that the annual conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment will be held in Montréal in 2017. To the extent that it is involved in organizing the conference, the JBACE will have to include the necessary sums in its budget proposal for fiscal 2016-2017.

b. *Proposed changes to the Policy on Human Resources Management*

The secretary explained the amendments made to the policy to reflect the end of shared services of a secretariat officer with the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC), the creation of a part-time secretariat officer position for the JBACE, and remuneration for statutory holidays for part-time employees.

On motion by Melissa Saganash, seconded by Pascale Labbé, the amended Policy on Human Resources Management was adopted.

c. *Proposed priorities for 2015-2016*

The secretary went over the priorities proposed for fiscal 2015-2016 based on the non-completed components of the action plan for implementing the Strategic Plan 2013-2018. The members struck a subcommittee tasked with examining the priorities more closely and submitting a proposal at the next meeting. Furthermore, the members would like to invite an expert on cumulative impacts so they can gain a better understanding of the different approaches, for example for assessing the cumulative effects of mining activities.

d. *New website*

The secretary explained the content and functions of the Committee's new website (www.ccebj-jbace.ca), in particular how to access the "Members only" section. The secretary and secretariat officer are learning how to update the site.

**4. WORK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE RELATING TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *FISHERIES ACT*:
SUPPORTING DOCUMENT FOR PROPONENTS**

The JBACE's analyst sent the subcommittee members an outline of the supporting document for proponents of projects that could affect the aquatic environment. The purpose of the document is to encourage proponents to contact people in Cree and Jamesien communities who hold knowledge about fish habitat and Aboriginal and recreational fisheries. This information exchange process is based on the principles of "good practice" and would take place during the self-assessment process when proponents are responsible for determining if their project requires a review or authorization by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The document would be available, among other places, in the section of the DFO website containing information for proponents of projects near water.

5. FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORKSHOP ON ACQUISITION AND DISSEMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL KNOWLEDGE (MARCH 2014)

The subcommittee members explained that the planned follow-up actions—creation of a web portal containing information on territory-related research and creation of a panel to channel research toward priorities identified by the communities—do not necessarily fall within the mandate of the JBACE.

The JBACE needs to make sure that it doesn't duplicate existing or anticipated initiatives. For example, the Société du Plan Nord and the Institut de recherche nordique could very well take initiatives to improve the dissemination of research findings. In one member's opinion, the JBACE needs to promote the dissemination of any tool, other than the portal and panel, to facilitate access to information and involvement of communities located in study areas.

6. FILE UPDATE

a. *Literature review of Cree environmental and social concerns*

The analyst will prepare a summary of the main findings of the literature review.

b. *Report on the public participation process*

Based on the subcommittee's comments, the analyst submitted a revised version of the draft report containing recommendations for improving public participation in the Section 22 impact assessment and review procedure. The subcommittee hopes to present the draft report to the members with a view to its adoption at the next meeting.

c. *Comments on the COMEX document on public participation*

The JBACE sent its comments to the Review Committee (COMEX) on January 27, 2015.

7. RESULTS AND FOLLOW-UP OF WORK ON URANIUM ISSUES

The members of the JBACE Commission on uranium issues brought the JBACE members up to speed on the work carried out with the BAPE Commission on its inquiry and public hearing report, which it expects to submit in May. They think that social acceptability is a major issue, as testified by the opinions expressed during the hearings held in the Section 22 territory. The workshop held on January 9 with JBACE members enabled a better understanding of social acceptability and related factors. According to one member, the BAPE's report must reflect the special significance social acceptability holds for the Crees. Certain components of agreements entered into between mining companies and the Crees can shed light on the unique nature of social acceptability in the JBNQA Territory.

The members of the JBACE Commission signed a confidentiality agreement giving them access to the BAPE's full draft report but prohibiting them from disclosing its content.

8. FOREST MANAGEMENT

- a.** *Draft Regulation respecting the sustainable development of forests in the domain of the State*

The members representing the Cree Nation Government stated their position on the draft regulation in writing. Considering the tight deadline for examining and commenting on the regulation, the JBACE will ask the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks for permission to submit its comments in mid-April, i.e. after its next meeting.

A member will organize a conference call with someone from the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs to get answers to questions about the regulation.

- b.** *Criteria for reviewing tactical and operational plans for integrated forest management (TPIFM and OPIFM) for the period 2014-2018*

The secretary gave a background on the review of the tactical and operational plans for integrated forest management to be submitted this spring. He raised the matter of what criteria the JBACE could use to review the plans.

Because the tactical and operational plans for integrated forest management will be transitional, the members agreed to write to the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks to say that the JBACE will not be commenting on the plans until the Québec government and the Crees have agreed on the terms and conditions of application of the new forest regime, in particular ecosystem-based management.

9. NEXT MEETING

The JBACE meeting planned for March 18, 2015 in Gatineau will not be possible because several members are no longer available. Instead, the next meeting will be held on April 7, 2015, in Québec City.



Marc Jetten
Executive Secretary
April 23, 2015