



MINUTES OF THE 203rd MEETING OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (ADOPTED)

DATE: June 28th and 29th 2017

PLACE: Pilot Conference Room, Hôtel Le Concorde, Québec City

PRESENT: Manon Cyr, Québec
Annie Déziel, Canada
Caroline Girard, Canada
Pascale Labbé, Québec
Ginette Lajoie, Cree Nation Government (CNG)
François Provost, Québec
Chantal Otter Tétreault, CNG
Melissa Saganash, CNG, Chairperson
Jean-Yves Savaria, Canada
Mélanie Veilleux-Nolin, Québec

Marc Jetten, Executive Secretary
Graeme Morin, Environmental Analyst

ABSENT: Andy Baribeau, CNG
Kenneth Gilpin, Ex-officio member, Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee
Jean Picard, Canada

GUESTS:

For Item 1: Valérie Guindon, Direction de la gestion des Forêts, Nord-du-Québec - Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP)

For Item 2, DSC Partners Inc.: Karine Bergeron, Human Resource Consultant
Philippe Legault, Human Resource Management Consultant

For Item 10, OURANOS Consortium on Climate Change:

Stéphanie Bleau, Co-coordinator, Tourism and Northern Environment - Vulnerabilities, Impacts and Adaption
Rebecca Hennigs, Specialist - Vulnerabilities, Impacts and Adaptation
Caroline Larrivée, Team Leader - Vulnerabilities, Impacts and Adaptation

Wednesday, June 28th 2017

1. PRESENTATION BY VALÉRIE GUINDON OF THE MFFP CONCERNING THE PROCESS FOR DRAFTING INTEGRATED TACTICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS ('PAFITs,' IN FRENCH)

Valérie Guindon gave an overview of the preparation of PAFITs for 2018-2023 and told the members at what stages the JBACE would be consulted (see [Appendix 1](#) for a summary).

2. PRESENTATION BY KARINE BERGERON AND PHILIPPE LEGAULT, OF DSC PARTNERS INC., CONCERNING THE RESULTS OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL DIAGNOSIS

Karine Bergeron and Philippe Legault explained the main findings and recommendations of the draft report on the organizational diagnosis prepared for the JBACE (see [Appendix 2](#) for a summary).

3. DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE MEMBERS REGARDING RESULTS OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL DIAGNOSIS

In the absence of secretariat employees, the members discussed the proposals and recommendations with Ms. Bergeron and Mr. Legault to reach a consensus on the steps the JBACE will take.

Thursday, June 29th 2017

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion by Manon Cyr, seconded by Caroline Girard, the agenda was adopted as amended.

5. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 201ST AND 202ND MEETINGS (APRIL 26TH AND MAY 2ND 2017)

On motion by Chantal Otter Tétreault, seconded by François Provost, the minutes of the 201st meeting, held in Montréal on April 26th 2017, were adopted as presented.

On motion by Annie Déziel, seconded by Ginette Lajoie, the minutes of the 202nd meeting, held by email on May 2nd 2017, were adopted as presented.

6. ADMINISTRATION

- a. Adoption of a resolution authorizing the Vice-Chairperson to sign cheques and financial commitments for the fiscal year 2017-2018*

On the basis of a resolution passed by the Executive Committee of the Grand Council of the Crees appointing Chantal Otter Tétreault vice-chairperson of the JBACE, the members unanimously adopted Resolution 2017-01-29 authorizing her to sign cheques and banking documents.

- b. Adoption of financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31st 2017*

The secretary presented the highlights of the financial statements for the fiscal year ended March 31st 2017. On motion by Manon Cyr, seconded by Jean-Yves Savaria, the 2016-2017 financial statements were unanimously adopted.

c. Adoption of the 2016-2017 Annual Report

The members went over the 2016-2017 Annual Report, which had been reviewed by the Administrative Committee. On motion by Jean-Yves Savaria, seconded by Pascale Labbé, the annual report was adopted as presented.

d. Draft resolution concerning salary review of the secretariat officer

The members went over the Administrative Committee's proposed salary review for the secretariat officer for fiscal 2017-2018. Given that the JBACE plans to establish a compensation policy in the coming year, the members approved Resolution 2017-06-29-02 granting the secretariat officer a 2% salary increase retroactive to April 1st 2017.

7. PRIORITIES 2015-2017

a. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and revision of the Environment Quality Act

The JBACE sent the letter expressing its interest in being consulted during the formulation of regulations under the Environment Quality Act (EQA), which was amended to modernize the authorization scheme. A member mentioned that the regulations will deal primarily with the authorization scheme and the environmental assessment procedure for southern Québec, including a list of development projects automatically subject to impact assessment and a list of projects requiring only a statement of compliance. In all likelihood, the MDDELCC will be inviting the JBACE to a meeting soon to discuss the matter.

Matters relating to SEA will be covered by a future regulation.

The members agreed that SEA is a priority issue and must be given special attention.

b. Consideration of cumulative effects

The analyst prepared an explanatory note taking stock of the work on cumulative effects and outlining the proposed study on best practices for cumulative effects assessment at both the regional and project level. The subcommittee on cumulative effects will try and hold a conference call with the consultant concerned.

c. Review of tactical integrated forest management plans (PAFITs)

The JBACE wants to take account for the reports produced by the local integrated land and resource management panels, the Cree-Québec Forestry Board, and the joint working groups, reviewing the 2018-2023 PAFITs. However, the said reports will not be available until the public consultation on PAFITs that the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) intends to hold in August 2019. The JBACE will write to the MFFP to inform the ministry that the Advisory Committee will begin reviewing the PAFITs, in accordance with the JBNQA, during the public consultation process, and that the 90-day period for commenting on the plans will begin then. However, the JBACE would like to begin working with forestry experts before the PAFITs are filed in order to fine-tune its criteria and indicators (among other things).

8. STATUS OF THE WORK ON LAND USE PLANNING: DRAFTING OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EIJBRG CONCERNING THE REGIONAL PLAN FOR INTEGRATED LAND AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (RPILRD – ‘PRDIRT,’ IN FRENCH)

The analyst gave a follow-up on the JBACE’s advice to the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government (EIJBRG) regarding its participation in the preparation of the Public Land Use Plan (PLUP, or “PATP” in French) for Category III lands. After being advised by the JBACE in March 2017, the EIJBRG resumed the work of its Natural Resources Committee on the basis of the “Règles de fonctionnement” (operating rules) proposed by the Ministère de l’Énergie et des Ressources naturelles.

The subcommittee on land use planning has since begun working on another advice to be submitted to the EIJBRG, on the preparation of a Regional Plan for Integrated Land and Resource Development (RPILRD, or “PRDIRT” in French). The subcommittee will submit a draft thereof to the JBACE with a view to sending it to the EIJBRG by the end of summer. The advice will highlight the opportunity that preparation of the PRDIRT affords the Crees and Jamésiens to develop the first-ever regional vision of integrated development and conservation.

9. FOLLOW-UP ON FILES

a. Public participation: guide for proponents

The analyst presented the preliminary version of the proponent’s guide to the Section 22 procedure and public participation. The working group, which is composed of members of the evaluating and review committees, submitted its comments. The guide should be finished in fall 2017.

b. Bill 132 on conservation of wetlands and bodies of water

The National Assembly of Québec passed Bill 132, *An Act respecting the conservation of wetlands and bodies of water*. According to a member, application of the Act’s compensation scheme in northern regions will be clarified in the near future. Including, for example, how the Act will be aligned with the conditions fixed by the Administrator, following the tabling of the Environmental and Social Impact Review Committee’s (COMEX) recommendations, for projects that disturb a wetland or body of water.

c. Review of federal environmental assessment processes

The Government of Canada will be releasing a discussion paper (online) drawn from the orientations outlined during the consultations regarding environmental and regulatory processes per the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA), the Fisheries Act, the Navigation Protection Act and the National Energy Board. Interested persons will be invited to share their views on the discussion paper.

A member explained that the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will be making recommendations to the minister in the fall of 2017 on potential reforms to the CEAA, policies and regulations. With regard to the Fisheries Act, a member expressed the opinion that Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s response to the recommendations of the Standing

Committee on Fisheries and Oceans is largely favourable. Legislative amendments to strengthen fisheries protection are expected.

The members agreed that the JBACE needs to share its views on the federal government's discussion paper very soon. Moreover, the JBACE will reiterate its intention to stay abreast of the proposed legislative amendments and, where necessary, submit comments.

d. Issues related to Woodland Caribou recovery

The consultant the JBACE hired intends to submit his synthesis of knowledge on and measures for woodland caribou recovery in July 2017.

The secretary mentioned that the letter concerning alignment of forest planning and the woodland caribou recovery strategy was sent to the Minister of Forests, Wildlife and Parks, Luc Blanchette, on June 9, 2017. The Committee is waiting for a reply.

e. Collaboration with Section 22 assessment and review committees

While the members think that better collaboration with the Section 22 committees will be beneficial, they agreed to wait and discuss the matter at a future meeting given the current workload.

f. Recommendations regarding the review of Schedules 1 & 2 of Section 22

The secretary will reword the letter concerning follow-up to the recommendations made by the JBACE in 2008 and 2014 regarding review of the lists of projects subject to and exempt from impact assessment (schedules 1 and 2).

10. PRESENTATION FROM THE OURANOS CONSORTIUM CONCERNING THE UPDATE OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE PORTRAIT FOR EEYOU ISTCHEE JAMES BAY

The presenters from Ouranos presentation provided the JBACE with a progress update on their work regarding the portrait of climate change impacts and adaptation measures in the territory of Eeyou Istchee James Bay (see [Appendix 3](#) for a summary).

Initiated by:

Marc Jetten
Executive Secretary
July 20th 2017

Completed by:

Graeme Morin
Environmental Analyst
November 30th 2017

APPENDIX 1: PRESENTATION BY VALÉRIE GUINDON (MFFP) CONCERNING THE PROCESS FOR DRAFTING INTEGRATED TACTICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS ('PAFITs,' IN FRENCH)

Madame Guindon explains that a new deadline to February 28, 2018, is granted to the MFFP and its partners to facilitate the incorporation of the community concerns and agreed-upon objectives into the tactical integrated forest management plan (PAFIT, in French) to be developed for each of the seventeen (17) management units in Nord-du-Québec.

This additional extension is essential in ensuring that the forestry planning process is more reflective of regional concerns. It also makes it possible to complete the consultations with all regional partners concerned within the agreed time window and to harmonize the new Adapted Forestry Regime prior to the round of official public consultations.

The work to be done with these partners ahead of the public consultation process will go on until February 2018. In March 2018, the MFFP personnel responsible for these matters will conclude their analytical work after receipt of the last deliverables from the integrated resources management panels (TGIR). April 2018 will be spent incorporating the conclusions of the files covered in each PAFIT. The preliminary consultations will begin in May 2018, which will lead to the entry into force of the 17 PAFIT in August 2019, at the end of the period required to conduct the consultation process.

The MFFP will renew the 2013-2018 PAFIT on April 2018 for the period of 2018 to 2023. However the cut allowances determined by the Chief Forester in November 2016 will be incorporated in that PAFIT since these cut allowances must become effective on April 1, 2018. The PAFIT will be subject to public consultation in 2017, as required by law. The process required to modify the 2018-2023 PAFIT will then be initiated to prepare for a public consultation in March 2019 and the tabling of an amended PAFIT in August 2019.

If new objectives agreed-upon with the partners after the entry into force of the PAFIT on April 1, 2018, can be incorporated into the operational planning prior to the adoption in 2019 of the PAFIT for 2018-2023, the MFFP will take the necessary measures to do so.

The commitment of the MFFP personnel and partners to carry on a rigorous consultation process and to foster constructive and efficient discussions are keys to the success of this mandate. In the next few months, ensuring that the new work schedule is respected will be a priority for the Direction générale du secteur nord-ouest in order to attain the common objective.

Madame Guindon affirms that the active involvement of the CCEBJ will be essential for the success of this endeavor. By joining forces, the MFFP and the various stakeholders, including the JBACE, will progress step by step through this process and turn this objective into reality. She concludes by stating that together, it is possible.

APPENDIX 2: PRESENTATION BY KARINE BERGERON AND PHILIPPE LEGAULT, OF DSC PARTNERS INC., CONCERNING THE RESULTS OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL DIAGNOSIS

Ms. Bergeron and Mr. Legault showed the methodology used to perform the diagnosis: interviews with current and former members, meetings with employees, observation during a JBACE meeting, a document review, and discussions with the administrative committee. The goal of the exercise is to (1) identify strengths in the committee's functioning, and (2) identify aspects that could be improved. They explained that the report of June 22nd 2017 could serve as a springboard for in-depth discussion by the JBACE members.

Ms. Bergeron and Mr. Legault then went over the strengths observed (e.g. strategic planning, operation of the subcommittees) and illustrated aspects of the Committee's functioning that could be improved (e.g. development of adapted working tools and a program for welcoming new members, as well as standardized job descriptions).

In closing, they provided a detailed road map for initiating the proposed improvements.

APPENDIX 3: PRESENTATION BY STÉPHANIE BLEAU, CAROLINE LARRIVÉE AND REBECCA HENNIGS, OF THE OURANOS CONSORTIUM, CONCERNING THE UPDATE OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE PORTRAIT FOR EYYOU ISTCHEE JAMES BAY AND ADAPTATION MEASURES

The presenters from Ouranos provided a status update on the drafting of the report. They mentioned that the report will be developed in a synthesis format, in plain language for stakeholders, and will have the following objectives:

- 1) Summing up climate change information for Eeyou Istchee James Bay and identifying knowledge gaps;
- 2) Indicating potential research needs and recommendations; and,
- 3) Helping multi-level governance in decision-making processes and prioritization of adaptation actions.

Thereafter, the presenters outlined the methodology used for the drafting of the report, as well as the five themes of its content:

1. Knowledge on the anticipated changes relating to the climate system (e.g. temperature, precipitation, etc.);
2. Knowledge relating the forecasted climate change impacts on ecosystems;
3. Knowledge of predicted impacts on health;

4. Knowledge of anticipated impacts on infrastructure; and,
5. Knowledge relating to adaptation initiatives.

The Ouranos representatives then underscored the importance of validating the work instructions and the structure of the draft report with the JBACE members in order to ensure that the study meets the members' needs. The JBACE members thus offered their comments and suggestions in this regard.