

3. FOLLOW-UP ON THE ORGANIZATIONAL DIAGNOSTIC

In light of the recent organizational diagnostic and related restructuring of the Secretariat,¹ the members discussed how best to address new means to improve the committee's structure and function so as to ensure the continued exercise of its mandate.

The members note that the diagnostic has provided for an important opportunity to re-hone and re-tool the Secretariat and the JBACE members with adapted resources; including, reference and guidance materials, member and employee-support tools, updated roles and responsibilities, and the potential for new personnel with skill-sets adapted the current and future needs of the Secretariat.

The members concur that a professionally-moderated retreat or workshop should be organized so as to allow for an open exchange of ideas on the matter. The Secretariat and the members' needs should first be hashed out in order to more easily identify future-oriented improvements that may be implemented. It is agreed that the preparation of the event should begin immediately.

4. WORK FILES N° 1

a. Regulations for the implementation of the revised Environment Quality Act (EQA)

The Analyst informed the members of the progress made in the file. He highlighted that the JBACE has a privileged opportunity to provide comments to the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (MDDELCC) on the proposed regulations before any official drafts of the regulations are published for public commentary in the near future.

Thereafter, the Analyst explained that a member of the Subcommittee proposed a more simplified text to replace the draft comments that were currently under consideration. The JBACE members reviewed the replacement text and adopted it on motion by Jean Picard, seconded by Ginette Lajoie. The replaced draft comments will be retained to assist in the preparation of future comments once the proposed regulations are published in the coming weeks. The Analyst is instructed to prep the replacement text for immediate translation and transmission to the MDDELCC.

b. Advice n° 2 for the EIJBRG on the Regional Plan for Integrated Land and Resource Development (RPILRD – 'PRDIRT,' in French)

The Analyst updated the members on the progress made on the advice, underscoring that the final changes suggested by the Subcommittee on the previous draft are minor, insofar as they do not modify the character or key messages of the advice. With the said changes taken into account, on motion Jean Picard and seconded by Mélanie Veilleux-Nolin, the members moved to adopt a revised advice for transmission to the EIJBRG as soon as possible.

¹ As of the end of July 2017, the Executive Secretary position has been vacant and the Secretariat has moved to its current location at 1080 Beaver Hall Hill.

c. *Comments on the Fisheries Act*

The Analyst, along with a member of the working group tasked with the file, outline the progress made in drafting comments for the Government of Canada. The key message that will be conveyed is that the JBACE expects to be solicited for detailed comments on the matter once proposed amendments to the *Fisheries Act* are debated during the anticipated parliamentary process in the coming months, or when other opportunities regarding the implementation of the Act arise.

Given that the members of the working group have already vetted the draft comments, on motion by Jean-Yves Savaria and seconded by François Provost, the members move to adopt them for immediate transmission to the Government of Canada following their translation.

d. *Comments on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*

The Analyst provided an overview of the draft comments prepared to date by the working group tasked with the file. Although the key message for the Government of Canada is straight-forward and is akin to the JBACE's key message in relation to the *Fisheries Act* (see [Point 4c](#)), the members moved to have the comments validated by the members of the working group in order to ensure their cogency.

Thereafter, the validated comments are to be transmitted to the members for adoption via email. The Analyst was thus instructed to proceed quickly and accordingly.

5. WORK FILES N° 2

a. *Review of tactical integrated forest management plans (PAFITs) 2018-2023*

The Analyst confirmed that no developments have occurred in the file since the last meeting. The remaining work entails the integration of the draft text on the criteria and indicators for the review in the call for tenders for consultants to conduct the review. The Analyst confirmed that this will be completed shortly and that he will then reconvene a meeting of the Subcommittee to finalize the draft call for tenders.

It will be important to remain aware of the evolution of the TLGIRTs and of the progress made regarding the consultation of the Cree in the planning exercise, given that the JBACE review will seek to determine how the input obtained from these stakeholders are reflected in the PAFITs. A member thus suggested that the Subcommittee should (1) seek to obtain an update on the progress made by the Local Integrated Land and Resource Management Panels for the Territory, (2) identify a third party to review the draft call for tenders before its formal adoption by the JBACE, and (3) establish a list of potential consultants for the said reviews.²

Additionally, to further assist the JBACE members, the Analyst is instructed to produce a synthesis table, akin to a Gantt table, to more clearly outline the timing of the many steps and actions that remain to be completed before the PAFITs are finalized.

² It was also suggested that Mr. Stéphan Ouellet, forestry engineer for the CNG, may be able to assist in all three of these matters. Local Integrated Land and Resource Management Panels are more commonly referred to by their French acronym 'TLGIRT,' which stands for "Table locale de gestion intégrée des ressources et du territoire."

In sum, the Subcommittee will reconvene to finalize the above-mentioned elements. Thereafter, the said material will be submitted to the JBACE for adoption. It will then be published in order to solicit quotes from consultants to conduct a 'trial review' in the new year (2018). This 'trial review' will serve to prep and to hone the subsequent official review once the draft PAFITs are made available for review by the MFFP the spring of 2019.

b. Coordination of forest management planning (PAFITs) and the planning of Woodland Caribou recovery efforts

The Analyst outlined the concerns highlighted in the JBACE's letter on matter, which was sent to the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) on June 9th 2017, as well the contents of the MFFP's response letter which was received on July 26th 2017.

In sum, the MFFP confirmed that it is sensitive to the need to coordinate forest management planning with Woodland Caribou Recovery planning. The response also affirmed that the ministry intends to ensure that this coordination will include the collaboration of the CNG and of the institutions derived from the *Paix des Braves*.

The members concurred that the JBACE can, nevertheless, opt to provide additional insight and comments on the matter, as necessary, once the forest management planning exercises proceed in the coming months (see [Point 5a](#)), and once adapted provincial Woodland Caribou recovery measures are identified for the Territory (expected in the coming weeks). Once adopted, the report cited below (see [Point 5c](#)) may be particularly useful in this regard.

In the interim, the JBACE should also seek to obtain an update on the progress made by the provincial government relating to Woodland Caribou recovery planning in order to stay informed. The Analyst will communicate with the MFFP to that effect following the meeting.

c. Woodland Caribou – Tyler Rudolph's report

The members discussed the contents of the first draft of the report. Given that the draft was circulated just prior to the meeting and that the text raises several serious results and recommendations, the members agreed that they require more time to provide the author with their comments and suggested modifications. It is agreed that the Analyst will compile the members' comments and send them to the author by mid-October so that he may rework the report accordingly. It will be readied in time for the next JBACE meeting.

The members note that the expert's report raises several fundamental conclusions regarding the state of provincial recovery planning efforts; namely, regarding the potential for attaining federally-recognized disturbance thresholds. Although the report has not yet been adopted, it is understood that these fundamental conclusions should serve as the basis for JBACE comments on provincial actions (see [Point 5b](#)), and also for the JBACE's comments on the draft federal action plan (see [Point 5d](#)).

Given the importance of the file, and on the suggestion of a member, the Analyst will share an abridged version of the draft with Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC) for info purposes. Once adopted, the full report will be forwarded to the HFTCC.

d. *Woodland Caribou – Comments on the Federal Action Plan from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)*

The Analyst provided an overview of the contents of ECCC's draft action plan. The members recognized that federal and provincial recovery activities are intimately linked and that the lion's share of responsibility rests with the province.

As such, and in line with the previous three discussion points, it is thus agreed that the JBACE Subcommittee tasked with the file should draft a letter outlining its major concerns regarding Woodland Caribou, based on the fundamental assessments outlined in the expert report cited above ([Point 5c](#)). This letter will be drafted for both the federal government (in response to ECCC's draft action plan) and for the provincial government (to be sent to the Minister of the MFFP). The letter will highlight the JBACE's concerns regarding the cumulative effects of multiple project developments in Woodland Caribou habitats, and will also suggest Cree implication in the proposed knowledge consortium for Woodland Caribou as proposed in the draft federal action plan.

The HFTCC will be sent a carbon copy of the letter for info purposes.

6. **WORK FILES N° 3**

a. *Ouranos' report on climate change*

The members note that the report is extensive and confirm to provide the Analyst with their comments in the coming days so that he may compile them and forward them onto Ouranos to proceed with the revision of the document.

Overall, the revision of the text should focus on the identification of (1) the knowledge that has been accrued since the previous JBACE report on the matter, (2) knowledge gaps requiring attention, and (3) future actions. In this sense, the take-away messages should be more readily-discernible in the reworked version. It will be readied in time for the next JBACE meeting.

b. *Public participation guide for proponents*

The Analyst confirmed that no developments have occurred in the file since the last meeting, but that the remaining work entails the treatment of the comments that have already been received by the working group. The Analyst underscored that these comments suggest several minor changes, insofar as they do not modify the character or key messages of the text.

The members agreed that the Analyst should proceed with the revision and translation of the text. The text, along with a draft distribution list for its circulation, should be readied in time for discussion at the next meeting.

c. *Study on cumulative effects (best-practices for regional studies)*

It is decided that the Analyst will reanimate the Subcommittee tasked with the file, and will also approach the principal researcher retained for the JBACE's earlier work on the subject, in order to organize the commencement of the said study in 2018.

d. Recommendations concerning the revision of Schedules 1 and 2 of Section 22

The Analyst confirmed that the letter requesting an update on the revision of the schedules was sent out on August 14th 2017, and that the MDDELCC issued a response on September 25th 2017. As such, both the federal government (through the auspices of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency) and the CNG have yet to issue their own respective responses.

Given the situation, the members agreed that the discussion point should be retained for the next meeting once all of the parties have responded. On the basis of these responses, the JBACE will be in a better position to determine its intended course of action.

e. Collaboration with Section 22 evaluating and review committees – meeting / workshop

The members confirm that such collaboration is a must. They concurred that an informal assembly of the members of the said committees, along with the signatory parties' analysts, would be a fruitful means of establishing a dialogue on each committee's priorities, concerns, needs, and upcoming challenges. Given the JBACE's workload, the said assembly would be entertained next year, in the summer or fall of 2018. The point will be raised again at the next meeting.

f. Annual meetings with the Administrators

The members confirm that such meetings are desirable and should be pursued once sufficient material for fruitful exchanges with the Administrators arises. The said meetings would be entertained next year, in the fall or winter of 2018. The point will be raised again at the next meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Webinar for the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)

The Chairperson's presentation at the IAIA April 2017 conference was very well-received. As a result, IAIA communicated with the Chairperson to solicit the committee's interest in reworking the said presentation into a webinar in 2018. The members agreed that it is an interesting opportunity to increase the JBACE's visibility. The Analyst and the Chairperson will work with IAIA to develop a draft in the new year.

b. Procedure for commenting internal documents (e.g. one comment per party)

The Analyst outlined his idea to streamline how comments are received from the members on work documents. The members expressed their reservations regarding the proposal to regroup comments by parties. Given the efficiencies gained by working in the format of a Subcommittee and the sensitivity of the members regarding the need to respect comment deadlines, the proposal is deemed moot. In its stead, in order to further support the communication and respect of deadlines, the Analyst will send out weekly status emails ("bilans").

c. Strategy for the involvement of Cree youth

The Chairperson advised the members that the CNG will be implementing a strategy for the involvement of Cree youth, and suggests that the JBACE should anticipate its participation therein. As an innovative program seeking to implicate Cree youth in the implementation of the JBNQA, the JBACE's ideas on the matter would be welcomed by the CNG.

8. NEXT MEETING

The members confirm that the next meeting will occur in Québec City at the end of November 2017. An internal workshop to follow up on the organizational diagnostic (see [Point 3](#)) will occur the next day. The Analyst is instructed to confirm the exact dates via email following the meeting.

Graeme Morin
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