



Comité consultatif pour l'environnement de la Baie James

James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment

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**MINUTES OF THE 139th MEETING  
OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

**(Adopted)**

- DATE:** January 25, 2005
- PLACE:** JBACE secretariat, Montréal
- PRESENT:** François Boulanger, Canada, Vice-Chairperson  
Glen Cooper, CRA  
Guy Demers, Québec, Chairperson  
Marian Fournier, Québec  
Ginette Lajoie, CRA  
Chantal Leblanc-Bélanger, Canada  
Pierre Moses, Québec  
Gilles H. Tremblay, Canada
- Marc Jetten, Executive Secretary
- ABSENT:** George L. Diamond, CRA  
Gilles Harvey, ex-officio member  
Claude Langlois, Canada  
Diom Romeo Saganash, CRA  
Denis Vandal, Québec

**Call to order and adoption of agenda**

The Chairperson explained his reasons for joining the JBACE and his desire to strengthen the collaborative relationship between the three parties.

On a motion by Chantal Leblanc-Bélanger, seconded by Ginette Lajoie, the following agenda was adopted:

1. Adoption of minutes of the 138th meeting
2. File update
3. Preparation of meeting with the Environment Minister
4. Discussion of comments on the Sustainable Development Plan
5. Adoption of strategic plan for 2005-2007
6. Proposal regarding JBACE's forestry mandate and the memorandum of understanding on the review of forest management plans
7. Adoption of 2005-2006 budget proposal
8. Employee salary review for 2005-2006
9. Web site
10. Draft letter regarding integrated water management at the basin level
11. Work placement 2005
12. Next meeting

1. **Adoption of minutes of the 138th meeting (November 30, 2004)**

Pierre Moses moved that the minutes of the 138th meeting be adopted with the requested changes. Gilles H. Tremblay seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **File update**

a. **Study of impact assessment and review of projects on Category I lands**

The consultant, Christiane Roy, has filed her interview report and related analysis. The subcommittee members will meet with her soon to discuss the results.

b. **Land use planning**

The MRNFP is apparently on the verge of releasing its consultation report and adopted approach to public land use planning.

Not much has been done on the preparation of a regional public land development plan (PRDTP) for the James Bay region due to the lack of a multisector issues table representing the partners. The MRNFP has approached the CRA and the James Bay Municipality about defining

transitional measures for such issues as rough shelter leases and illegal camps.

**c. New conditions for hog farms**

Given the proposed construction of a factory hog farm in the James Bay Territory, the JBACE could invite resource people from MENV to present the regulatory amendments and their application in the Territory. The members of the Review Committee (COMEX) could be invited to the presentation.

**d. Recommendations of the Commission for the Study of Public Forest Management**

Following a discussion, the members agreed to examine the Minister for Forests, Wildlife and Parks' position on the Coulombe Commission's recommendations once it is made public. If appropriate, the Committee could assess the relevance of certain recommendations for the James Bay Territory.

**3. Preparation of meeting with the Environment Minister**

The offices of the Minister of the Environment and the Grand Chief of the Crees have begun preparing for the Minister's visit to Oujé-Bougoumou in conjunction with the consultations on the Sustainable Development Plan. The secretariat will contact the parties to ask that the Minister and the Grand Chief set aside time for the JBACE on February 18: this is an opportunity for the Committee to explain its role. The JBACE will also be presenting a written submission during the public hearings to be held in Chibougamau in the evening of February 18.

The Chairperson will contact the Minister's Office to request a private meeting between the JBACE and Mr. Mulcair on February 18, as promised by the Minister during the meeting on September 29, 2004.

**4. Discussion of comments on the Sustainable Development Plan**

The secretary tabled a draft letter to Thomas Mulcair expressing the JBACE's intentions regarding the Sustainable Development Plan. The members agreed that the letter should outline the provisions of the environmental and social protection regime established in 1975, which

already back then incorporated sustainable development principles. The letter will also explain the JBACE's role in the regime.

In formulating its comments on the plan, the JBACE will consider the concerns of the communities living in the Territory. The secretary will contact the CRA to see about organizing a meeting with the local environment administrators. If such a meeting is possible, a workshop on the Sustainable Development Plan would help situate and better understand the government's approach.

A member for Québec thinks that the Ministère de l'Environnement would be willing to provide technical support to help prepare the workshop. While the Department's support is welcome, a member for the CRA pointed out that it is important to separate the JBACE from the proponents of the Sustainable Development Plan. The workshop should establish links between sustainable development and environmental issues such as residual materials management.

**5. Adoption of strategic plan for 2005-2007**

The strategic plan subcommittee will study the working document prepared by the secretary. Since this is a priority matter, the next JBACE meeting will be devoted entirely to adopting the strategic plan.

**6. Proposal regarding JBACE's forestry mandate and the memorandum of understanding on review of forest management plans**

A Québec-appointed member described the process followed by the subcommittee in defining the forestry-related aspects that still require action on the JBACE's part. The following four areas were identified: land use planning, traditional knowledge, biodiversity conservation and the review of laws, regulations and other measures proposed by the governments. The JBACE's intervention will be coordinated with the bodies concerned, in particular those established by the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship between the Gouvernement du Québec and Crees of Québec (Peace of the Brave). The subcommittee considers that it is no longer relevant for the JBACE to review forest management plans. The Committee could fulfil its obligations under the JBNQA by monitoring the plans' implementation by way of reports filed by the

Cree-Québec Forestry Board (CQFB). A member for the CRA has taken steps to prepare a memorandum of understanding with the CQFB on the review of forest management plans.

On a motion by Marian Fournier, seconded by François Boulanger, the *Proposal regarding the forestry mandate of the JBACE and the memorandum of understanding on the review of forest management plans* was adopted as revised.

## 7. Adoption of 2005-2006 budget proposal

The secretary presented the budget proposal, highlighting the amounts that were adjusted in light of current-year expenditures and projects in the coming year.

**JBACE resolution 2005-01-25-01 regarding the 2005-2006 budget proposal:**

- WHEREAS the JBACE must approve the forecast expenditures for each budgetary item for the following fiscal year;
- WHEREAS the budget proposal prepared by the Administrative Committee of the JBACE was deemed satisfactory;
- WHEREAS a relevant change was made to the budget proposal;

*On a motion by Pierre Moses, seconded by Ginette Lajoie:*

**It is unanimously resolved to adopt the budget proposal for fiscal year 2005-2006.**

## 8. Employee salary review for 2005-2006

### a. Salary scale for the secretariat officer

The Administrative Committee of the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC) submitted a proposal to revise the salary scale for the position of secretariat officer. For the purposes of equity, given the type of tasks performed, the HFTCC Administrative Committee recommended aligning the secretariat officer's salary with those for similar positions within the Québec civil service. It seems that

the secretariat officer's job description is comparable to those of a secretariat agent and desk officer in the civil service.

After studying the proposal, the Administrative Committee of the JBACE recommended that it be adopted. Future indexations resulting from public sector salary negotiations must be individually approved by the JBACE.

**JBACE resolution 2005-01-25-02 regarding the revised salary scale for the position of secretariat officer:**

- WHEREAS the joint secretariat officer of the HFTCC and JBACE performs tasks corresponding more to those of a secretariat officer and an office clerk within the Québec civil service;
- WHEREAS the secretariat officer, Louise Bélanger, is currently at the top of her salary scale;
- WHEREAS any indexations affecting the proposed salary scale will be submitted to the JBACE for approval;

*On a motion by Glen Cooper, seconded by Gilles H. Tremblay:*

**It is unanimously resolved to adopt the revised salary scale proposed by the HFTCC Administrative Committee for the position of secretariat officer.**

**b. Salary revision for the secretariat officer**

The executive secretary evaluated the secretariat officer's job performance and deemed it entirely satisfactory. Consequently, he recommended, with the Administrative Committee's endorsement, that the secretariat officer's salary be raised to the 6th level adopted for this position.

**JBACE resolution 2005-01-25-03 regarding the secretariat officer's salary revision:**

- WHEREAS the salary of the secretariat officer must be revised, in cooperation with the HFTCC, for fiscal year 2005-2006;
- WHEREAS the JBACE executive secretary deemed Louise Bélanger's job performance to be entirely satisfactory;

*On a motion by Chantal Leblanc-Bélanger, seconded by Marian Fournier:*

**It is unanimously resolved, subject to approval by the HFTCC, to establish the secretariat officer's salary for fiscal year 2005-2006 at the 6th salary level recently adopted for this position, i.e. \$33 495.**

**c. Executive secretary salary review**

The Chairperson and the Administrative Committee will conduct the executive secretary's performance evaluation and recommend the appropriate salary revision.

**9. Web site**

The members approved the tabled texts for the JBACE's Web site: a file update, a history of the JBACE, and two interactive quizzes. A member for Québec wants the photos used on the Web site to better reflect the human occupation of the James Bay Territory, including hydroelectric facilities. A member for Canada proposed adding the list of laws and regulations applicable in the Territory.

**10. Draft letter regarding integrated water management at the basin level**

The secretary tabled a draft letter in response to the Waswanipi Cree Chief's proposal to establish a regional drinking water commission (May 2004): the letter invites the chief to participate in an information session on integrated water management at the river basin, or watershed, level.

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A member for the CRA proposed holding off on sending the letter until the members of the Cree party have had a chance to discuss it. In the meantime, the JBACE will let the chief know that his proposal is being studied.

## **11. Work placement 2005**

At the Administrative Committee's request, the secretary submitted a work placement project for summer 2005: the project would be a continuation of the summer 2004 work placement and would be aimed at setting up recycling projects in the Cree communities. The successful candidate must have a good knowledge of residual materials management. He or she would be paired with a person in a Cree community to facilitate both contact with the local authorities and outreach (dissemination of information).

The members recommended lowering the requirements as regards experience in relations with Aboriginal people or recycling partners. A member for the CRA recommended setting up a recycling pilot project in just one community, Wemindji. The member also pointed out that our potential candidates for the assistant's position are currently enrolled in college programs; however, he does not think that they will find a taxable wage of \$14/hour attractive enough.

The JBACE Administrative Committee will serve as the hiring committee for both of the above positions.

## **12. Next meeting**

The JBACE will hold its next meeting on Friday, February 18, 2005, in the Cree community of Oujé-Bougoumou, in conjunction with the consultation on the Sustainable Development Plan.

Marc Jetten  
Executive Secretary  
April 7, 2005