



## **MINUTES OF THE 154th MEETING OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

*(Adopted)*

**DATE:** June 5, 2008

**PLACE:** Offices of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority, Montréal

**PRESENT:** Glen Cooper, CRA  
Annie Déziel, Canada  
Ashley Iserhoff, CRA, Chairman  
Ginette Lajoie, CRA  
Joanne Laberge, Québec  
Maryse Lemire, Canada, Vice-Chairperson  
Chantal Otter Tétreault, CRA  
Sarah Szirtes, Canada  
  
Marc Jetten, Executive Secretary

**ABSENT:** Guy Demers, Québec  
Pierre Moses, Québec

### **Call to order and adoption of the agenda**

The Chairman invited the members to adopt the agenda. On motion by Ginette Lajoie, seconded by Annie Déziel, the following agenda was adopted:

- 1. Adoption of the minutes of the 153rd meeting (April 16, 2008)**
- 2. File update**
  - a. General forest management plans (GFMP) approval process
  - b. Presentation by the Chief Forester on the new calculation of allowable annual cuts
  - c. Recommendations report on the review of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 22
  - d. Creation of four new protected areas in James Bay

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- e. Robert-Boyd commemorative park project
  - f. Proposal regarding land use planning in the James Bay region
  - g. Life-cycle assessment of residual materials management scenarios
  - h. Proposed poster on climate change
  - i. JBACE vacancies and chairmanship for 2008-2009
  - j. Subcommittee for updating strategic directions
  - k. Competition for the analyst position
3. **Adoption of 2007-2008 financial statements**
  4. **Adoption of the report of activities for 2007-2008**
  5. **Other business**
    - a. Planned sectoral study on the status of mineral exploration in relation to the impact assessment and review procedure
    - b. Proposal for moving the secretariat
  6. **Next meeting**
1. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 153RD MEETING (APRIL 16, 2008)**

On motion by Chantal Otter Tétreault, seconded by Sarah Szirtes, the minutes of the 153rd meeting of the JBACE were adopted as amended.
  2. **FILE UPDATE**
    - a. *General forest management plans (GFMP) approval process*

The secretariat has not yet received the final version of the 15 approved GFMPs for the James Bay Territory, so it's hard to say how much consideration the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF) gave the JBACE's recommendations. However, an MRNF representative assured the Committee that timber supply and forest management agreement (TSFMA) holders will remedy the observed deficiencies with regard to consultation of tallymen when they prepare their annual management plans.

A CRA member feels that the JBACE must get TSFMA holders' comments on the recommendations report submitted in March. The Cree members of the joint

working groups will also be asked for comments. The comments received and the discussions at the planned meeting with members of the Cree-Québec Forestry Board should enable the JBACE to make any necessary changes to its criteria before reviewing the next set of GFMPs.

*b. Presentation by the Chief Forester on the new calculation of allowable annual cuts*

Québec's Chief Forester will be giving a presentation to the JBACE tomorrow on the new procedures for calculating the allowable annual cut. Five members confirmed their presence. The Chief Forester will also explain the impact of the new AACs on the 15 GFMPs for the James Bay Territory.

*c. Recommendations report on the review of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 22*

The working group has finished revising the report based on the proposed changes to schedules 1 and 2 adopted by the JBACE. The recommendations report will be sent to the signatory parties concerned with Section 22 of the JBNQA. A member for the CRA said that a possible scenario could be that the CRA propose the changes to the governments of Canada and Québec. A member for Canada will find out what action Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's James Bay Implementation Office will take, if any.

The report will also be sent to the federal and provincial administrators, the local environment administrators, the federal Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Québec's Sustainable Development Commissioner, the Section 22 committees and the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC).

A member for Canada said that the KEAC had initiated a similar process, but decided to define the environmental assessment criteria.

*d. Creation of four new protected areas in James Bay*

The Québec government has assigned the status of proposed biodiversity reserve to the territories of Paakumshumwaau-Matuskaau, Lac-Dana and Tourbières-Boisées-du-Chiwakamu. In addition, 8750 km<sup>2</sup> of land has been set aside to create the Lac Burton, Rivière Roggan and Pointe-Louis XIV protected area. According to a member for Québec, these projects will raise the surface area protected in the James Bay Territory above the Québec government's goal of 8%

The member said that the MDDEP also received a request from the Cree community of Whapmagoostui to assign protected status to the area of Bienville Lake.

*e. Robert-Boyd commemorative park project*

The provincial administrator replied to the JBACE's second letter concerning the Robert-Boyd park, saying she feels it's premature to create a working committee to implement corrective measures because the MDDEP is still waiting to receive an opinion from its legal department regarding the status of the Robert-Boyd park in relation to the Section 22 impact assessment and review procedure.

In July 2007, the MDDEP regional office conducted a site inspection which resulted in an opinion on four violations of the *Environment Quality Act*. According to a CRA member, the MDDEP examined the project's environmental compliance but not land use in this area. The members agreed to write to the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee for an assessment of the impacts of the Robert-Boyd park on the right to harvest held by the Cree family that owns the adjacent trapline.

According to a Québec member, the proposed park highlights the lack of consultation of the Cree people. In her opinion, renewing the dialogue between local players would help identify solutions and prevent the reoccurrence of similar situations in the future. The member feels that if a committee were set up to implement corrective measures, James Bay Municipality should be represented.

*f. Proposal regarding land use planning in the James Bay region*

A CRA member pointed out again that James Bay is the only region of Québec not to have a land use plan. Land use plans, prepared at the regional level, allow for more-detailed planning than the public land use plans of the MRNF. However, developing a conceptual framework for such a plan requires a long-term commitment and the JBACE does not have the necessary resources at this time. The members agreed to include this issue in its next strategic plan.

A Québec member said that when the time comes, the JBACE could get help with the land-use planning process from a regional development expert at the Ministère des Affaires municipales et des Régions.

*g. Life-cycle assessment of residual materials management scenarios*

The consultants from the Interuniversity Research Centre for the Life Cycle of Products, Processes and Services (CIRAIG) will be submitting a preliminary

progress report soon and the members of the working group on integrated residual materials management will be invited to comment on it. The consultants propose assessing another option, namely, a combination of incineration and recycling, a management method already used in Wemindji. The consultants are currently collecting data from the Cree Regional Authority and Cree communities for their preliminary life-cycle assessment report to be submitted in the fall.

*h. Proposed poster on climate change*

Chantal Otter-Tétreault presented the latest version of the poster, as reworked by a graphic artist. The poster can be sent to the Cree communities and JBACE partners once the final changes have been made. A CRA member thinks that the JBACE could present the poster to the local environment administrators at their next meeting.

The poster highlights the main conclusions of the report on climate change impacts in James Bay and invites partners to submit proposals for combatting and adapting to climate change.

*i. JBACE vacancies and chairmanship for 2008-2009*

The governments of Canada and Québec have not appointed their members to fill the two vacant seats on the JBACE. It is the Québec government's turn to appoint the chairperson and it has not done so yet. Ashley Iserhoff, appointed by the CRA for fiscal 2007-2008, has accepted to continue serving as chairman in the meantime.

*j. Subcommittee for updating strategic directions*

Due to a lack of time, work on updating the JBACE's strategic directions has not yet begun. A member for the CRA offered to prepare draft directives for 2008-2011 for the subcommittee.

*k. Competition for the analyst position*

The secretariat received 36 applications for this position. Five people are to be interviewed by the Administrative Committee on June 10.

### 3. **ADOPTION OF 2007-2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The executive secretary tabled the 2007-2008 financial statements and answered the members' questions.

**JBACE Resolution 2008-06-05-01 regarding the 2007-2008 financial statements:**

- **WHEREAS** the JBACE must adopt the 2007-2008 financial statements;
- **WHEREAS** the accounting firm Ruel, Giroux, Dorion, c.a., duly completed a review engagement of the JBACE's financial statements;

*On motion by Ginette Lajoie, seconded by Maryse Lemire:*

**It is unanimously resolved to adopt the 2007-2008 financial statements as prepared.**

### 4. **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2007-2008**

The members made suggestions on the draft report of activities 2007-2008. A Québec member will supply a map of protected areas in James Bay for that section of the report. The secretary will send the members the list of recipients of the report for updating purposes. A CRA member suggested adding the federal Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Commissioner for Québec to the list.

**JBACE Resolution 2008-06-05-02 regarding the report of activities 2007-2008:**

- **WHEREAS** the JBACE must submit an annual report of its activities for tabling in the National Assembly;
- **WHEREAS** the executive secretary prepared a draft annual report;
- **WHEREAS** the JBACE's Administrative Committee submitted its comments, which were incorporated into the report;

*On motion by Glen Cooper, seconded by Sarah Szirtes:*

**It is unanimously resolved to adopt the report of activities 2007-2008 as amended.**

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

### *a. Planned sectoral study on the status of mineral exploration in relation to the impact assessment and review procedure*

During the review of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 22, the JBACE decided to put off formulating a recommendation on mineral exploration projects because a sectoral study was deemed necessary. The members were invited to think about possible experts to sit on the working group.

A member for Canada thinks that the working group could establish criteria for determining projects that require environmental and social impact assessment.

Even though there are already numerous mining projects going on in the Territory, a member for the CRA feels that the issue will take on greater importance with the uranium mine project that is expected to be submitted.

### *b. Proposal for moving the secretariat*

A CRA member suggested moving the secretariats of the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC) and JBACE to the building housing the Cree Regional Authority offices in Montréal. There are currently empty offices in the building and moving there would allow HFTCC and JBACE staff to work more closely with the Crees. The proposal will also be submitted to the HFTCC.

A member for the CRA suggested that the HFTCC and JBACE secretaries jointly define criteria for choosing office space for the secretariats: the cost of rent, proximity to public transit, availability of a board room, etc. The secretary said that the lease for the current offices at the World Trade Centre Montréal expires in December 2009.

## **6. NEXT MEETING**

The JBACE will hold its next meeting on September 17 and 18, 2008, in Mississauga.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Jetten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

**Marc Jetten**

**Executive Secretary**

**September 22, 2008**