

## COASTAL HABITAT RESEARCH PROGRAM

### STEERING COMMITTEE

#### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 11TH MEETING HELD IN QUÉBEC CITY ON DECEMBER 11 AND 12, 2017

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<b>PRESENT:</b>	Alain Tremblay	Hydro-Québec
	Carine Durocher	Hydro-Québec
	Jean-Philippe Gilbert	Hydro-Québec
	Marc Dunn	Niskamoon Corporation
	Norman Cheezo	Cree Nation of Eastmain
	Nadia Saganash	Cree Nation Government
	Réal Courcelles	Hydro-Québec
	Robbie Tapiatic	Cree Nation of Chisasibi
	William Blackned	Cree Nation of Wemindji
<b>GUESTS:</b>	Émilie Sinave	Cree Nation Government
	Ernie Rabbitskin	Cree Nation of Chisasibi
	James Bobbish	Cree Nation of Chisasibi
	Jean Rodrigue	Canadian Wildlife Service
	Josée Rousseau	Hydro-Québec
	Louie Kanatewat	Cree Nation of Chisasibi
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Merlin Whiskeychan	Waskaganish First Nation
	Roderick Pachano	Cree Nation of Chisasibi

#### **CHAIR AND SECRETARY**

Mr. Courcelles chaired the meeting. Ms. Rousseau acted as Secretary.

The meeting began at 2:00 p.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The Chair reviewed the agenda for the day.

Mr. Courcelles suggested deferring the items below to tomorrow's meeting since Mr. Dunn is absent but will be there tomorrow:

5 c) Update on research programs – Research Program on Cree Knowledge and Land Use

5 f) Research Program on Eelgrass

The participants also agreed to defer the items below to tomorrow's meeting:

2) Approval of the minutes of the 8th meeting

3) Approval of the minutes of the 9th meeting

4) Approval of the minutes of the 10th meeting

10) Schedule of Steering Committee meetings for 2018

### **UPDATE ON RESEARCH PROGRAMS – ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET**

Mr. Courcelles said that the Cree Nation Government (CNG) confirmed that it would contribute \$700,000 to the research program for the first year and over \$1,600,000 for the second year. He added that Niskamoon Corporation had asked its director of finance to enter into an administrative agreement with the CNG's treasurer to govern the use of these funds.

Ms. Saganash asked what the total budget for the research program is.

Mr. Courcelles responded that the total budget is approximately \$6 million. He added that the Niskamoon Board of Directors adopted a resolution to create a Finance Subcommittee. He said that the SC will continue to evaluate all the researchers' proposals, but the new subcommittee will be responsible for giving the final funding approval.

Ms. Durocher asked whether the additional funding provided by CNG also involves additional mandate or task for the SC or nominating new members to the SC.

Mr. Courcelles responded that it does not. He explained that the subcommittee is made up of the Niskamoon director of finance, the CNG treasurer and one member of the Niskamoon Board of Directors, and that the Board had named him as representative.

Ms. Saganash asked whether the funding will be maintained if the 2019 deadline set out in the agreement is not met.

Mr. Courcelles confirmed that it will and stated that 2016 can be considered "Year 0" since the research hadn't begun yet. He added that the initial deadline could change.

### **UPDATE ON RESEARCH PROGRAMS – RESEARCH PROGRAM ON GEESE**

Mr. Gilbert said that on November 13, 2017, Mr. Tapiatic informed him that one of the geese had been harvested south of Lake Ontario on the U.S. side of the border. He said

that the goose's tracking collar was recovered and the supplier is now checking it for damage. He added that the data was also recovered and the hunter was given a replica of the collar as a souvenir, along with compensation of US\$50.

Mr. Gilbert said that tomorrow evening, Jean-François Giroux of UQAM will give the SC a presentation on the research program he is proposing.

Mr. Gilbert said that out of the 25 geese tagged, the collars from 22 of them are emitting signals indicating that they are likely still alive, one was harvested in the U.S., the signal from one has not moved from the Puvirnituk area (the goose was probably harvested by a local hunter), and one was tracked for the last time in the Rouyn area, but we have no other recent data from its collar.

### **UPDATE ON RESEARCH PROGRAMS – RESEARCH PROGRAM ON OCEANOGRAPHY – COASTAL**

Mr. Tremblay said that ISMER/UQAR is planning a ten-day field survey in early March 2018. He said that the researchers have not yet submitted their logistics plan but will be asked for it this evening during the meeting to be held with some of the SC members. He added that the researchers plan to cover the Grande Rivière plume to the north and south of the river in Baie of Many Islands, and take samples.

Mr. Cheezo asked why they are not planning to go as far as Eastmain. Mr. Tremblay answered that he doesn't know, but that they will have to be asked about it at this evening's meeting.

Mr. Tremblay added that the sampling strategy will probably involve the use of helicopters and snowmobiles.

Ms. Durocher asked whether the field survey planned in March will coincide with the SC meeting in Eastmain.

Mr. Tremblay said that it won't, since the field survey is planned for early March and the SC will only be in Eastmain at the end of March.

Mr. Tremblay said that the researchers plan to conduct three field surveys in 2018: one in the spring to, among other things, prepare for the installation of measuring instruments, one in the summer and one around late August or early September. He added that they plan to stay there for three weeks in the summer of 2018.

### **UPDATE ON RESEARCH PROGRAMS – RESEARCH PROGRAM ON OCEANOGRAPHY – RIVERS**

Mr. Tremblay said that there will be no sampling survey this winter, but the researchers plan to be in the territory for 10 to 15 days in July 2018 and will sample the 13 rivers identified. He added that they will use float planes and boats to take samples at three stations on each river—one at the river mouth and two upstream. He said that the researchers are evaluating the various possibilities in terms of facilities such as using a

trailer or motor home as a laboratory or lodging, and that this will be discussed at this evening's meeting,

Mr. Bobbish asked where the upstream stations would be located.

Mr. Tremblay responded that the researchers don't know yet and that it will depend on accessibility (for example, depending on whether or not the upstream section is accessible by road).

Ms. Sinave asked how often sampling will be conducted.

Mr. Tremblay answered that sampling will take place in the summer, fall and winter. He said that Cree teams may sample some of the rivers more often.

Ms. Sinave asked whether they will use permanent sensors.

Mr. Tremblay responded that the oceanography research team will install the permanent sensors. Mr. Tremblay said that approximately 30 permanent sensors will be installed.

Mr. Bobbish asked whether we have the names of the 13 rivers involved in the sampling program.

Mr. Tremblay said that he would send him the list of the 13 rivers.

Ms. Durocher said that the upstream sampling could be done on inland traplines, but that the collaboration of the trapline users would be required.

Ms. Saganash asked whether we have the sampling sites for the rivers; she said that the oceanography researchers already have theirs and Fred Short also has his.

Ms. Durocher suggested that Mr. Tremblay ask the researchers for a summary of what they intend to sample.

Mr. Tremblay said that it will be important to establish the sampling sites with the researchers at this evening's meeting. He said that they need to be firm as a group this evening to get the exact dates and locations of the sampling stations. He added that the rather vague information the working group had received from Mr. Short only seemed to identify six stations.

Mr. Blackned said that he is confused because we sometimes use the term "station" and sometimes we say "site," and referred to Fred Short's use of the term "site."

Mr. Gilbert said that there seem to be 79 sites, but whether or not all 79 sites are distributed among the six stations has yet to be determined.

Mr. Courcelles said that it will be necessary to clarify what constitutes a station, a site, etc.

Mr. Tremblay said that the oceanography aspect involves a combination of fixed points and mobile stations, all of which will be related to the eelgrass research program. He said that the researchers will need to agree on the analysis parameters and that their samples should be sent to the same laboratory to ensure consistent interpretation.

Mr. Tremblay said that six current meters ~~gauges~~ are to be installed at six sites to measure current, but they could be set up at different sites from year to year to ensure better coverage of the entire study area. He said that it would be important to ensure that the gauges are installed near Fred Short's sampling sites.

Mr. Blackned explained that there had been a communication problem in Wemindji when Mr. Short's team was there, saying that Nick Anderson had told the tallymen that there would be nothing more for them to do following the few days of sampling.

Ms. Sinave asked when the gauges will be installed.

Mr. Tremblay responded that they will be installed as soon as the ice melts.

Ms. Durocher said that she believes that Mr. Short has difficulty specifying where the gauges will be placed because he doesn't have a detailed sampling strategy. She said that she thinks that Mr. Short tells the Crees to take samples where they usually travel by boat and she thinks that that is why there is no sampling site strategy.

Ms. Saganash said that Mr. Short must have core sampling sites.

Mr. Tremblay said that there seems to be a consensus on approximately 15 parameters to be sampled, some of which will be done by different teams, so it is important that the sample for a given parameter always be analyzed by the same laboratory, regardless of who collected it. He said that at this evening's meeting, the researchers will be asked to send their samples to the specific labs designated to analyze them.

Mr. Bobbish said that it is important that the researchers all work together and avoid redundant sampling.

Mr. Tremblay said that this will be discussed at this evening's meeting.

Mr. Blackned said that Fred Short's team doesn't know the area and the Wemindji tallyman didn't really receive any instructions from Mr. Short. He said that the researchers should be clearer about what they want, and that they were more occupied with teaching the tallymen how to use the iPad. He said that this is why young people have been included on the teams.

Mr. Tremblay presented a table he had prepared explaining which parameters will be analyzed by each research team. He said he hopes the researchers will adopt this type of protocol this evening.

Mr. Tapiatic suggested adding a column showing Cree manpower need ~~what the Crees could do~~ for each parameter.

Mr. Tremblay said that he would add the column Mr. Tapiatic requested.

Mr. Tremblay said that the table will be submitted for discussion this evening and will serve as a proposal for the researchers.

Mr. Bobbish asked whether this table is open for discussion with the researchers.

Mr. Tremblay said "yes."

Ms. Saganash said that this is what we need for this evening's meeting, and that only the stations are missing.

Mr. Tremblay said that at the end of the program, who will incorporate all the data will have to be determined.

Ms. Durocher said that someone will be needed to manage the database once the samples are analyzed.

Mr. Tremblay said that this will have to be discussed since each research team will manage its own data, but someone will still be needed to put it all together.

Mr. Cheezo asked whether the Crees who conduct water analyses in the communities' drinking water treatment plants could be involved in the program's sediment and water quality analyses.

Mr. Tremblay confirmed that they could and that this had already been established for certain parameters with those responsible for the Chisasibi water treatment plant.

Ms. Saganash suggested adding a column to the table to better explain to the Crees why each parameter is being studied.

Mr. Tremblay said that he would add a column to that effect.

Ms. Durocher suggested leaving the table as is for the meeting with the researchers, and then making it a communication tool for specific needs.

Mr. Tremblay said that we can modify and improve the table once we and the researchers have agreed upon the parameters to be analyzed.

Ms. Saganash asked whether these parameters will help identify how the eelgrass is affected by the current and whether a similar study on the biological aspect of the eelgrass should be conducted.

Mr. Tremblay responded that the river study will analyze various isotopes which, in a sense, constitute the rivers' "signature," and that the data will tell us where the fresh water is coming from and the nutrients it is carrying. He said that primarily, we need information on water temperature, salinity and stable isotopes. He added that we also need to know whether a given habitat is suitable for eelgrass and how sediment, storms and ice can affect its growth.

Ms. Saganash said that we should also study the eelgrass shoots.

Mr. Gilbert said that we can't really do any more than what is already set out in the Comprehensive Program.

Mr. Tremblay said that we could add phosphorus.

Mr. Gilbert said that if the water is fine but the eelgrass beds are not looking good, we will need to look at other factors like parasites, epiphytes such as algae, etc.

## **COORDINATION BETWEEN RESEARCHERS: Integrated methodology and summary report**

Ms. Saganash presented a document forwarded by Mr. Short, entitled "Research on the Ecological Health of James Bay in Relation to Cree Natural Resources – 2018-19 Eelgrass Plan." A copy was appended to the minutes. Since not all the SC members had received the document, Alain Tremblay will e-mail it to all the members.

Ms. Saganash asked Mr. Tremblay if he had any comments on the document.

Mr. Tremblay said that we need more than the six areas proposed by Mr. Short. He said that tonight, we will ask Mr. Short to provide more information about his strategy. He said that it is essential that we agree on the parameters we want to sample and then apply them to all the stations.

Mr. Cheezo asked why Mr. Short has not identified any stations south of Eastmain or in the vicinity of Boatswain.

Mr. Tremblay answered that there are no stations in those areas because the Crees told us that eelgrass is less abundant along the coast south of Eastmain.

Ms. Sinave asked why there are no sediment core samples in the parameters to be analyzed on trapline CH4.

Mr. Tremblay responded that ISMER will be taking sediment core samples at various locations but is not required to take all of the samples the same year.

Ms. Saganash said that we need to take core samples not only in places where the eelgrass is healthy, but also in areas where there was eelgrass before but none now.

Mr. Tremblay said that that is the intention.

Discussion followed concerning the procedure for validation of the sampling sites by the Crees.

Ms. Saganash said that the sites must be validated by the land users.

Mr. Tremblay said that he believes Mr. Neumeier's understanding of the procedure is that he is to send the site locations to Mr. Dunn, who will submit them to the Crees for validation and then forward their comments to Mr. Neumeier.

Ms. Saganash said that it is important that we explain to the land users why any given parameter will be analyzed, which will require that the researchers be involved in the Crees' validation process.

Mr. Tremblay said that we will have to be clear with the researchers about what we expect of them.

Mr. Bobbish agreed.

Ms. Durocher said that it is not necessary to validate every point, just the sampling strategy. She added that there are two levels of validation. Once they are completed, meetings can be held with the tallymen to establish their needs.

Ms. Durocher said that the content of Mr. Short's current document repeats what he already presented. She wonders if it's worth commenting on.

Ms. Durocher said that the SC first needs to agree on the sampling strategy and then meet with the land users to get their feedback.

Ms. Saganash reiterated the importance of having the researchers explain to the land users why they are sampling such and such a parameter.

Ms. Durocher agreed with this approach, but said that the researchers will need Mr. Rabbitskin's or Mr. Dunn's help in facilitating communication between the researchers and land users during the validation process.

Ms. Saganash asked Mr. Tremblay for his opinion on the second part of the 2018–19 Eelgrass Plan.

Mr. Tremblay said that Mr. Short had not collected much data and had mainly noted the presence/absence of eelgrass. Mr. Tremblay said that more quantitative data is needed to enable us to respond to the questions concerning changes in eelgrass. He said that we could train Crees to collect the required quantitative data.

Mr. Tremblay said that collecting data is one thing, but analyzing all the data collected is another.

Ms. Saganash asked whether there are other eelgrass experts.

Mr. Tremblay answered that Cindy Grant of Université Laval is an eelgrass expert, but his understanding is that the committee has decided to continue with Mr. Short.

Mr. Courcelles suggested that another researcher be put in charge of collecting quantitative data.

Mr. Gilbert said that Mr. Short is competent and has conducted research throughout the world. He said that the issue is not that Mr. Short can't do what the committee is asking him to but rather, that he doesn't want to do it because he sees things differently. He added that he has the impression that this is not what the Crees want.

Mr. Tapiatic agreed with Ms. Durocher's statement that this document is a reiteration of what Mr. Short had already presented. He said that he is getting mixed messages. He went on to say that CERRI's proposal makes no sense and that CERRI doesn't seem to like Mr. Short anymore.

Mr. Kanatewat said that the Cree Nation of Chisasibi hired Mr. Short because they have confidence in him and that it should stay that way.

Mr. Tremblay said that it will have to be made clear to the researchers this evening that this is also the Crees' research, not Hydro-Québec's.

Ms. Saganash suggested reminding the researchers that this research is the result of an agreement stemming from negotiations between Hydro-Québec and the Crees.

Mr. Courcelles suggested informing them that the Cree Nation Government is also investing in this research.



Ms. Durocher added that the CNG is contributing because it has great hopes for this research program.

Mr. Bobbish suggested maintaining an objective point of view, as this is scientific research.

Mr. Tremblay said that the difference between Mr. Short and the other researchers is that communication is very fluid while there is still some distrust from Mr. Short when the SC ask questions.

## **FIELDWORK LOGISTICS – UPDATE FROM ERNIE RABBITSKIN**

Mr. Rabbitskin said that the researchers will be in Chisasibi from February 28 to March 13, 2018, and plan to conduct six helicopter flyovers and three snowmobile “test runs.” He added that they had provided him with a first draft of the list of sampling stations. He said that the researchers had asked him to find them a location they can use as both lodging and a work space.

Ms. Sinave asked whether the researchers will conduct a communication activity with the community.

Ms. Durocher said that even if the researchers wanted to conduct such an activity they would have difficulty organizing it, since they wouldn’t know with whom to speak. She said they will need help organizing it.

Discussion followed concerning the logistics involved in using the helicopter. Mr. Rabbitskin said that the researchers can’t base the helicopter in Chisasibi, but will try to use LG-1 as a base.

## **FIELDWORK LOGISTICS – FIELD LABORATORY**

Mr. Tremblay said that the researchers must always check to see whether they can have a trailer. He said that he estimates the total cost of the required equipment at around \$55,000 and that, in particular, the researchers will require a freezer, a dryer for the plants, a filtration water column system and an oven. He said that if the SC decides to work with Université Laval, they could provide some of the equipment. He said that the researchers had provided him with a list of the equipment they will need and that he will establish scenarios in relation to this question and will get back to the SC in winter 2018.

Mr. Tremblay was asked to come to the next meeting with a proposal concerning the mobile lab.

The meeting paused at 4:45 p.m. and resumed at 9:30 a.m. on December 12, 2017.

Ms. Durocher distributed the CD-ROM entitled “La Grande Complex – Phase II – Environmental Monitoring – Summary Reports” to all members and participants. A copy was appended to the minutes. She explained that the document covers the prior studies conducted by Hydro-Québec for the La Grande complex and said that the Hydro-Québec representatives on the SC are available if they require more information or want the full report.

## **FOLLOW-UP: Arctic Change 2017**

Ms. Saganash and Mr. Tremblay presented the PowerPoint document entitled “Eeyou Istchee Eelgrass Research Program, James Bay East Coast (2017–2019),” which they will be presenting at the Arctic Change 2017 conference in the afternoon.

Ms. Durocher suggested adding the CNG and Hydro-Québec logos to the presentation, since both organizations are contributing financially to the research program.

Mr. Courcelles agreed with Ms. Durocher’s suggestion.

The members and participants suggested making a few changes to the presentation, which were duly noted by Ms. Saganash and Mr. Tremblay. The final version of the PPT was appended to the minutes.

## **UPDATE ON RESEARCH PROGRAMS – RESEARCH PROGRAM ON GEESE (continued from December 11)**

Mr. Gilbert introduced UQAM researcher and professor Jean-François Giroux. He said that Mr. Giroux had provided him with a proposal for the research program on geese, and invited Mr. Giroux to present his proposal to the members and participants.

M. Giroux gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Use of the James Bay east coast by Canada geese during migration, Jean-François Giroux, UQAM, Département des sciences biologiques.” A copy was appended to the minutes.

Mr. Courcelles said that geese in Baie Boatswain Bay would be tagged with tracking collars in fall 2018, not spring 2018 as indicated in Mr. Giroux’s presentation. He said that this is what was agreed upon with the tallymen. He added that he had agreed to meet with the tallymen again in February 2018 to jointly determine how we will capture and tag the geese with collars.

Mr. Giroux said that he understands that the tagging will be carried out in fall 2018.

Mr. Dunn said that the SC was surprised by the results obtained from tracking the 25 geese, which showed that most of them were not flying over the coast. He asked Mr. Giroux if he thought the geese seen along the coast might have come from somewhere else.

Mr. Giroux confirmed that it is possible.

The members then discussed Mr. Giroux’s suggestion of using a log book and the suggestion made at the last SC meeting of using the CTA’s log book.

Mr. Dunn suggested having the Crees bring back the tags from the geese they had harvested previously.

Mr. Dunn suggested using the CTA’s current log book and adding a map and a page for recording information on harvested geese.

Ms. Durocher asked whether the CTA will want to provide us with this information.

Mr. Dunn said that we haven’t met with them yet.

Ms. Saganash said that it would be better if we gave each participant a map of the coast.

Mr. Kanatewat suggested conducting a door-to-door survey, as this would ensure a better rate of response.

Mr. Bobbish suggested implementing a more anonymous procedure, saying that participants could be identified with numbers.

Mr. Giroux said that we don't need the name of the participant.

Mr. Dunn suggested that an SC subcommittee be set up for this purpose.

Mr. Bobbish said that the arrival of long-neck geese is a more recent phenomenon. He asked Mr. Giroux whether the arrival of the long-necks might have displaced those considered resident geese, and whether interaction between the two species could be an issue.

Mr. Giroux confirmed that it is possible.

Mr. Courcelles said that the SC will discuss the idea of setting up a subcommittee again later today.

Following his presentation, Mr. Giroux left the meeting.

The meeting paused from 11:00 to 11:15 a.m.

Mr. Gilbert said that he had spoken with Mr. Giroux and they had agreed that two flyovers would be conducted over two seasons (spring and fall). He said that each flyover takes about 10 days.

Discussion followed concerning Mr. Giroux's budget.

Mr. Dunn said that everything will have to be included when this is put before the finance committee, including the costs associated with using the helicopter and acquiring additional collars.

Ms. Durocher asked whether the budget includes compensation to the hunters for use of the log book or participation in the survey.

Mr. Gilbert said that the budget covers the development of these tools.

Mr. Gilbert will send Ms. Rousseau the final budget by Friday, December 15, 2017, and it will then be forwarded to all the members and participants.

Ms. Durocher recommended that these tools be developed as soon as possible.

After discussion, the SC named Ms. Durocher, Mr. Bobbish, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Rodrigue,

Ms. Saganash, Ms. Sinave and Mr. Tapiatic as participants on the subcommittee, which will be mandated to provide the SC with recommendations on the most practical and efficient way for the hunters to provide the SC with the information on their goose harvesting activities along the coast.

Mr. Rodrigue said that he will send Ms. Rousseau examples of tools for distribution to the members of the subcommittee.

Ms. Saganash will also send a few examples of tools to Ms. Rousseau for distribution to the subcommittee members.

It was agreed that Mr. Dunn would call the first meeting of the subcommittee in early January 2018.

### **UPDATE ON RESEARCH PROGRAMS – RESEARCH PROGRAM ON CREE KNOWLEDGE AND LAND USE – Proposal from the Chisasibi Eeyou Resource and Research Institute (CERRI)**

Mr. Dunn said that he had received a proposal from CERRI. He said that he does not think it would be appropriate for all the SC members to review it together today since the Crees need to discuss it among themselves first. He said that the proposal will be presented to the SC at a later date.

Ms. Durocher reiterated that she is concerned that CERRI does not fit the definition of an “Independent Third Party.” She said that she is happy that CERRI is involved in this research program. She also reiterated the fact that it was John Paul Murdoch who established this principle, which should govern the SC’s make-up. She asked whether all the SC members are prepared to go against this principle.

Mr. Bobbish asked whether CERRI represents all four communities concerned.

Mr. Courcelles said that he does not believe this to be the case.

Mr. Bobbish said that the SC does not know enough about CERRI’s entire structure.

Mr. Dunn said that the SC should know a little more. He reiterated the fact that CERRI’s concern is that the Crees could lose control of their own heritage and that their traditional knowledge could go elsewhere. He said that he believes CERRI could play a role in the research program, but what that role would entail could be the subject of discussion. He added that he does not find the argument about the definition of “Independent Third Party” relevant and believes that CERRI could fit the definition.

Mr. Tapiatic said that he thinks the SC should pursue discussions with CERRI. He said that the SC cannot accept that CERRI confine the study to Chisasibi and not involve the other communities concerned.

Mr. Courcelles said that the Niskamoon Board decided to reject their proposal and give them a last chance to revise it and comply with the terms of reference. He added that if this approach doesn’t work, the Niskamoon Board agrees to the SC finding another researcher.

Ms. Durocher asked whether there is a way we can work with them.

Mr. Dunn said that we haven’t reached that point yet.

Ms. Saganash asked Mr. Dunn about the process and said that she wants to be involved in the discussions with CERRI.

Mr. Dunn said that he doesn’t see any problem with Ms. Saganash participating in the discussions with CERRI. He added that CERRI’s spokesperson is Vincent Gauthier-

Doucet. He stated that no proposal from CERRI will be approved without the SC's blessing.

Mr. Tremblay said that he agrees with Ms. Durocher's statement that CERRI does not fit the definition of "Independent Third Party."

### **UPDATE ON RESEARCH PROGRAMS – RESEARCH PROGRAM ON EELGRASS**

Mr. Dunn said that Mr. Short had provided all the information requested, including the Stantec report. He added that the sensor data wasn't available because the sensors hadn't yet been installed in 2016. Mr. Dunn will provide Ms. Rousseau with the information received for distribution to members and participants (to do list).

Mr. Gilbert said that he will read the Stantec report and forward his comments to the SC.

### **COMMUNICATION PLAN**

Ms. Saganash said that she and Ms. Sinave had worked on a communication plan.

Mr. Dunn, Ms. Sinave and Ms. Saganash will work on a draft communication strategy. It was decided that Ms. Sinave will fine tune it and share it first with Mr. Dunn and Ms. Saganash, and once the draft is ready it will be sent to Ms. Rousseau for distribution to the SC members.

Ms. Durocher said that she has some comments about the newsletter and she wonders when the Communication Working Group set up at the last meeting will be consulted. She said that Mr. Bobbish is also part of this Working Group.

Mr. Dunn asked that any comments about the newsletter be sent to him; he will share them with Cynthia Taylor and once the pre-final version of the newsletter is ready, Ms. Taylor will send it to Ms. Rousseau, who will forward it to the SC members for comment and then return the version with comments to Ms. Taylor for editing.

### **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS: SCHEDULE FOR 2018**

Ms. Rousseau reminded the participants of the meeting dates set so far for 2018 (January, March, June and August) and said that she would forward the list to the members and participants.

### **FEEDBACK ON THE EVENING MEETING WITH THE RESEARCHERS ON DECEMBER 11, 2017**

Mr. Tremblay said that he and Ms. Saganash, Ms. Sinave, Mr. Tapiatic and Mr. Bobbish were present at the meeting. He said that all the researchers were present except Mr. del Giorgio. He said that everyone agreed on the parameters to be measured to be able to respond to the questions relating to the research program. He added that they

had a good discussion about the fact that the researchers have to work in close cooperation with the Crees.

Mr. Tremblay said that Mr. Short agreed that quantitative parameters should be added to the eelgrass study, but that he (Mr. Tremblay) is not sure Mr. Short understood that it is he who should collect the data on these parameters.

Mr. Tremblay said that the researchers are open to holding information sessions in the communities, but are requesting our help in organizing them.

Ms. Saganash said that she understands that Mr. Short is having difficulty with some of the parameters requested, i.e., there are some he said he can't measure.

Mr. Tremblay said that this is because he doesn't have the necessary instruments.

Mr. Tremblay said that he will update the table that was presented to the SC members yesterday in accordance with the discussions held with the researchers last night. He added that he will ask the researchers to give him the dates of their upcoming field surveys and the exact locations of their sampling stations.

Mr. Tremblay said he will review the table of parameters and send it to Ms. Saganash, Mr. Tapiatic and Mr. Bobbish for comment by December 15, 2017, and once he has received their comments, he will produce a revised version of the table and send it to Ms. Rousseau for distribution to the SC members.

Mr. Tremblay said that he has evaluated the costs of acquiring additional instruments for Mr. Short and believes that Mr. Short could absorb these costs.

Mr. Bobbish said that he doesn't see much progress since the Chisasibi meeting in August 2017 in terms of how the parameters for each researcher are to be incorporated.

Concerning the sampling strategy, Mr. Dunn said that there will have to be meetings with the land users to explain what has been done and discuss the sites already identified. He said that the SC should do this, not the researchers.

Ms. Durocher agreed with Mr. Dunn and said that the strategy will have to be planned out before the meetings are held. She said that at the very least, a basic schedule should be established.

Mr. Tremblay said that the researchers were asked for the schedule at yesterday's meeting and that they should be submitting it in mid-January 2018.

Mr. Dunn said that it is important that the sampling sites be set up jointly with the trappers. He added that he doesn't want to get there and tell the trappers about things that have already been decided.

Ms. Saganash reiterated that they must also be told what is being analyzed and why.

Mr. Bobbish said that the eelgrass study will involve every trapline, but not the oceanography study.

Mr. Courcelles said that it is important to bear in mind that validation with the trappers has to be completed by late January or early February 2018 for Chisasibi and Wemindji, and by March 2018 for Eastmain.

Mr. Dunn suggested finding out if Zou Zou Kuzyk agrees to act as senior researcher and, if so, that she be present during the validation process. Mr. Dunn said that he will contact her.

Ms. Saganash said that at last night's meeting, the researchers suggested offering a type of internship program for Cree students. She said that Virginie, who is acting as research coordinator for ISMER, agrees with this idea. She added that the researchers would like the SC to establish an approach to setting such a program up.

Mr. Dunn suggested that a proposal to that effect be prepared, along with a budget. After discussion, it was agreed that Ms. Saganash and Ms. Sinave will prepare the proposal and budget.

Pursuant to the summary of last night's meeting with the researchers, it was agreed that Mr. Tremblay will send them an e-mail cancelling the joint meeting planned for tonight, as there is nothing new to discuss.

It was also agreed that the validation tour will take place from February 5 to 9, 2018, with the participation of Messrs. Dunn, Tapiatic, Courcelles and Rabbitskin, as well as Zou Zou Kuzyk, if she agrees to act as senior researcher. Ms. Saganash's participation is to be confirmed. It was agreed that the tour will cover all four communities if the members and participants in charge of the research program on geese are available; if not, the tour will only cover Chisasibi and Wemindji.

The meeting paused at 1:00 pm. and resumed at 6:00 p.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 8TH MEETING**

Mr. Courcelles distributed copies of the minutes of the 8th meeting.

The Chair reviewed every page of the minutes of the 8th meeting. Some corrections were requested and the minutes were approved as corrected.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 9TH MEETING**

Mr. Courcelles distributed copies of the minutes of the 9th meeting.

The Chair reviewed every page of the minutes of the 9th meeting. Some corrections were requested and the minutes were approved as corrected.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 10TH MEETING**

Mr. Courcelles distributed copies of the minutes of the 10th meeting.

The Chair reviewed every page of the minutes of the 10th meeting. Some corrections were requested and the minutes were approved as corrected.

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in Montréal on January 23 and 24, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

*Réal Goussard*