

COASTAL HABITAT RESEARCH PROGRAM

STEERING COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 14TH MEETING

HELD IN WEMINDJI ON JUNE 27, 2018

- PRESENT:**
- Norman Cheezo – Cree Nation of Eastmain
 - Réal Courcelles – Hydro-Québec
 - Carine Durocher – Hydro-Québec
 - Marc Dunn – Niskamoon Corporation
 - Jean-Philippe Gilbert – Hydro-Québec
 - Louie Kanatewat – Cree Nation of Chisasibi
 - Geraldine Mark – Cree Nation of Wemindji
 - Roderick Pachano – Cree Nation of Chisasibi
 - Nadia Saganash – Cree Nation Government
 - Robbie Tapiatic – Cree Nation of Chisasibi
 - Alain Tremblay – Hydro-Québec
- ABSENT:**
- James Bobbish – Cree Nation of Chisasibi
 - Ernie Rabbitskin – Niskamoon Corporation
 - Jean Rodrigue – Canadian Wildlife Service
 - Emily Sinave – Cree Nation Government
 - Merlin Whiskeychan – Waskaganish First Nation
- GUESTS:**
- Mhaly Bois-Charlebois – Hydro-Québec

PROPOSED AGENDA

- 1) Approval of the agenda
- 2) Membership and Secretary (M. Dunn and R. Courcelles)
- 3) Approval of the minutes of the 13th meeting
- 4) Update on research programs:
 - a. Research program on geese (J. P. Gilbert)
 - b. Research program on Cree knowledge and land use: proposal from the Chisasibi Research Institute (M. Dunn)
 - c. Research program on oceanography – coastal (A. Tremblay)
 - d. Research program on oceanography – rivers (A. Tremblay)
 - e. Research program on eelgrass – proposal for 2018/2019 and terms of reference (M. Dunn)

- 5) Fieldwork logistics:
 - a. Update from Ernie Rabbitskin
 - b. Mobile laboratory and lodging (A. Tremblay)
- 6) Coordination between researchers: Revised mandate for Zou Zou Kuzyk (M. Dunn)
- 7) Density, biomass and state of health of eelgrass with the ISMER (A. Tremblay)
- 8) Communication plan, action plan and newsletter
- 9) Chisasibi Eeyou Resource and Research Institute (CERRI)
 - a. Request from Vincent Gautier-Doucet, Anthropology Dept. Administrator
 - b. Invitation to a conference on eelgrass in Chisasibi, September 18–19
- 10) Preventive spillage (R. Courcelles)
- 11) Next meeting (Chisasibi, week of August 20): agenda, logistics and communication with the researchers
- 12) Meetings schedule for 2018
- 13) To-do list
- 14) Varia

CHAIR AND SECRETARY

Norman Cheezo chaired the meeting.

Mhaly Bois-Charlebois acted as Secretary. The meeting began at 9:10 a.m.

1) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Chair reviewed the agenda. It was agreed that the following item be added to the agenda:

14) Steering Committee (SC) mandate

Furthermore, during the meeting, it was agreed that the following items also be added to the agenda:

- 5)
 - c. House rental
 - d. RV and mobile lab parking space
 - e. Lodging in general
- 8)
 - a. ASLO
 - b. Aboriginal Day in Chisasibi

Marc Dunn said that Ernie Rabbitskin could not be present in the morning and that he could give his presentation in the afternoon if he arrived.

2) MEMBERSHIP AND SECRETARY (M. DUNN AND R. COURCELLES)

Réal Courcelles introduced Ms. Bois-Charlebois as the new Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. Dunn introduced Geraldine Mark as the new Cree Nation of Wemindji representative on the SC. He informed the members that Merlin Whiskeychan should continue to represent the Waskaganish First Nation on the SC. Mr. Dunn said he had to write a letter to the Chief and Council of Waskaganish to that effect. He added that the letter would be sent within the next two weeks.

Roderick Pachano asked who would be the Waskaganish representative on the Monitoring Committee.

Mr. Dunn answered that it would be Ernest Moses, the local Niskamoon Officer.

3) APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 12th MEETING

Ms. Bois-Charlebois explained that the minutes of the 12th meeting were not ready because the translation service had not yet completed the revision.

Mr. Courcelles said that the minutes should contain an item referred to the next SC meeting.

4) UPDATE ON RESEARCH PROGRAMS

a. Research program on geese (J. P. Gilbert)

Mr. Dunn asked to have the summary of the report put on the screen.

Mr. Courcelles asked when the report had been sent.

Jean-Philippe Gilbert answered that it had been sent on June 6, 2018.

Mr. Gilbert reviewed the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) document entitled *Summary of the aerial Canada goose surveys conducted in May 2018 as part of the comprehensive Research program on Coastal Habitat of Eeyou Istchee – Martin Patenaude-Monette, UQAM, Jean-François Giroux, UQAM – 25 May 2018*. A copy of this document is appended to the minutes. He presented the researchers on the first page and the dates they had performed the two flyovers (May 6 and May 13). Mr. Gilbert revised the main conclusions. He said that initially, there had been a lot of wind and ice; it was a little soon to conduct the survey and that it had taken 2.6 hours to get from Waskaganish to Wemindji. He said they surveyed around 800 geese. He added that this does not amount to a lot, given the size of the study area; however, due to the weather, this was to be expected. Mr. Gilbert then noted that the largest group of geese consisted of around 300 birds in the Waskaganish area. He said there were fewer and fewer birds meanwhile going north. Mr.

Gilbert said that on May 13, the temperature had been between 5 and 10°C; that there were still no big areas of open water, little ice, and that around 11,000 geese had been counted. He added that they don't know if they just caught a glimpse of the migration because this survey was just for one day. He said that they could not fly over the Chisasibi area. He added that, since the survey was performed on only one day, they cannot say whether there were more geese before or after the survey. Mr. Gilbert showed a map and explained that the biggest dots represented zones where geese had been seen, and that the red area was a no-fly zone.

Mr. Gilbert said that Mr. Rabbitskin had been one of the observers in the helicopter. He said the two GoPro cameras provided a great view of the weather conditions and that sometime you see big flocks, so you can count. He said that they had eight hours of footage, and so had tried to cut it a bit to show it to the committee. He added that they will work on that and aim to present a short clip at the next meeting.

Mr. Dunn asked if it would be possible to have it before the meeting in Chisasibi.

Mr. Gilbert answered that they would try.

Norman Cheezo asked when the surveys took place.

Mr. Gilbert answered that they were on May 6 and 13.

Mr. Cheezo said that they didn't see them.

Nadia Saganash requested the line on the map to be identified in order to see where along the coast the videos had been taken, and that they had flown in line.

Mr. Gilbert said that they sometimes had to go around islands.

Mr. Dunn explained that Mr. Rabbitskin said that the first time the flight was lower, and that the second time was straighter.

Ms. Saganash asked if there were any past surveys with which to compare the results.

Mr. Gilbert answered that they have some, but that with a one-day survey, it's really difficult to compare: there are a lot of differences from one day to the next as well as between methodologies. He added that they will try to compare anyway.

Mr. Dunn said that they had managed to compare the results before.

Louie Kanatewat said that around the week of May 6, he had not seen any geese, and that it was a very late spring. He added that the geese had begun to arrive on May 13.

Mr. Gilbert agreed with Mr. Kanatewat's observations. He said that everything had still been frozen during the week of May 6. He added that other waterfowl surveys in connection with other environmental programs indicated that the geese had arrived at least a week late this year.

Mr. Kanatewat said that they sure didn't see geese in the Chisasibi area, because they were more to the south.

Mr. Gilbert said that they should have gone one week later.

Mr. Pachano said that he thought that a third survey had been proposed on another date, April 29 and May 6.

Mr. Gilbert answered that at the last SC meeting, they had decided to conduct the surveys on May 6 and 13, since this is what had been discussed with the land users.

Ms. Saganash said that during the meeting with the CTA, they were concerned that they missed the geese.

Mr. Dunn said that some land users in Waskaganish had requested the survey not be performed on April 29 because there were few geese and they didn't want to disturb them.

Ms. Saganash commented that this is why she had sent an e-mail about that to clarify the date.

Mr. Pachano asked if he could have a copy.

Ms. Saganash answered that Josée Rousseau had sent it on June 6.

Mr. Gilbert showed the flyover lines.

Mr. Dunn asked if they were going south.

Mr. Gilbert answered that the helicopter was based in Waskaganish, that they were going north and had then come back to the south.

Mr. Cheezo asked if the blue line represented the May 6 survey.

Mr. Gilbert answered that the orange line represented the May 13 survey.

Mr. Dunn asked to show May 6 first and remove May 13.

Ms. Saganash asked if the CNG could have the data.

Mr. Gilbert answered that they could produce a map; as for the data, he would wait for the end of the study when the data are published. He added that for now, they would be able to send the preliminary results, for example, in terms of a map. Mr. Gilbert continued the presentation saying that as was evident, the flyovers had followed the coast and come back down south, and they were based in Waskaganish.

Ms. Saganash asked whether the people in the helicopter had also counted geese on their way back to Waskaganish.

Mr. Gilbert answered that they had not, since the helicopter had been flying at a high altitude so as not to disturb the hunters.

Mr. Cheezo said that the lines look the same.

Mr. Gilbert said that it's because both lines are for the same survey.

Carine Durocher said that it is a good sign.

Mr. Gilbert said that normally geese are where open water is seen, so the second survey was shorter. He added that the researchers will analyze the data and draft a report. He said that another survey is planned for the fall and hopefully will assess the eelgrass habitat.

Ms. Saganash asked if the preliminary report could be sent to the CTA.

Mr. Dunn said they were important collaborators, that they diffuse the messages, etc., so it would be a good idea to send it to them.

Mr. Kanatewat said that mid-September would be pretty good for the survey, since the geese will have begun their migration.

Mr. Gilbert said that they would have new collars.

Mr. Dunn said that they should let Mr. Gilbert finish the presentation.

Mr. Gilbert said that because the collars had been set up last year, this could indicate where to perform the survey. He added that they have the data from last year, so they can see when would be the best time to perform the survey. He said that they would like to repeat the study in the fall (hopefully, the whole coast up to the north) and that if this were not possible, they will do the same in the south where they find the geese.

Mr. Dunn asked Mr. Cheezo about the best time for the surveys. He said that the representatives should consult the land users about the geese surveys in the fall. He asked Ms. Mark, too. Mr. Dunn asked them to get back to the SC about when the users would be available and schedule a time for that.

A discussion then ensued about the best time to consult the users.

Ms. Saganash said that it could be good to consult the CTA as well.

Mr. Gilbert said that they would consult them. He added that they would start from the presentation they made and shorten it.

Mr. Dunn said they would need the flyover lines.

Mr. Gilbert talked about the collars. He said the next 25 collars would resemble the ones set up in September in Waskaganish and Boatswain Bay, but with the addition of a satellite unit, which will allow data to be obtained all year long. Mr. Gilbert said that they will only use the satellite

chip from May to September, explaining that it cost a lot of money, ergo will only be used half the year. He said that another difference is that they can receive a death signal, meaning that when a goose dies, they can retrieve and reuse the collar or resell it, as opposed to the other type of collars, which are lost. Mr. Gilbert added that they can obtain the same kind of data, but with a satellite, not from a tower. He said that in the third week of July, they would start preparing for the September campaign. He added that they had retrieved some collars from shot birds (one in Oujé-Bougoumou), which Mr. Rabbitskin had sent back to him at the end of May and which would therefore be reused.

Mr. Cheezo asked how many were left.

Mr. Gilbert answered that 14 were left.

Mr. Courcelles asked if these could be used with the new system.

Mr. Gilbert said no, because it is a different system.

Mr. Courcelles asked if only 14 were left from 35.

Mr. Dunn wanted to know if some had fallen off.

Mr. Gilbert said that five collars had been recuperated and returned to the manufacturer to be refurbished. He answered that they don't know whether they were hunted, if the goose had died, if it were due to malfunction or if the goose had died in Northern Quebec and was unable to be detected by a cellular tower.

Mr. Courcelles said he was surprised that half of the collar signals had been lost.

Mr. Gilbert answered that it is normal and that, at the program's outset, they had expected to lose some 60% of the collars.

Mr. Pachano asked where they send the five collars after they are refurbished.

Mr. Gilbert answered that they will send them up north to Puvirnituk.

Mr. Pachano said that they should put the collars with the better transmitters up north, on geese they would capture in Boatswain Bay.

Mr. Gilbert said this was a good suggestion. He added that they wanted to put 25 collars on the coast.

Mr. Dunn said that it is hard and a bit frustrating to wait for the geese to arrive; people want to know where they are.

Mr. Gilbert said that they will have the data when they come back.

Mr. Dunn commented that for the one caught in Oujé-Bougoumu, it had been very exciting, it was like: you won! He asked if he had seen the collar and whether the goose had been acting

differently and they said it had not. He added that it was a normal goose. He said that this had been at the beginning of the survey, when it was still cold. Mr. Dunn said that the only concern was not about the collar, but rather because the goose had been shot a lot further inland than what was normally expected.

Mr. Gilbert said that 90% of the geese migrate in the center of Quebec. He added that it was a big guess on to do the survey on the coast. He said that in Boatswain Bay, of course, it was a good idea; but they do not know if they will be able to catch 25 geese that can fly. He added that if they cannot, they will have to wait until next year. Mr. Gilbert said that they went north because they know they could catch them easily.

Mr. Kanatewat said he would share a story. He said that Americans who had come from Indiana to hunt Canada geese had told him they no longer have any geese in Indiana.

Mr. Gilbert said the population goes on the path way south and down and that if they can catch them in Boatswain Bay, it will be interesting. He added that they eat more corn in the south and then fly.

Robbie Tapiatic said that of the first geese killed in May, in the first flock of the spring, all had corn in their mouths. He said he didn't know they could bring corn in their mouths. He wondered whether this is how they store energy, in their mouths and stomachs.

Mr. Gilbert said that this was interesting. He said the ones caught in La Grande had flown a long way without stopping before they lost the signal.

Mr. Pachano said he had seen geese like the ones Mr. Tapiatic described, but that they were skinny.

Mr. Tapiatic said that the first ones killed were always fat and maybe this behavior is new.

Mr. Gilbert presented a map to the committee.

Ms. Saganash said it would be interesting to present it to the Cree Nation.

Mr. Pachano asked if they pay \$25 for each collar brought back.

Mr. Dunn said it is more than that: it is \$125.

Mr. Gilbert said that they needed to figure out a way to wire money to the United States, because one was angry to not receive the money in US. He added that they put *rewards* on the posters and ask them what they want.

Mr. Dunn said that he thought CTT was going to pay them.

Mr. Gilbert said that they don't have a way to charge them back the amount they give and that it seems complicated.

Mr. Dunn asked for an e-mail explaining this to Mr. Gilbert. He added that they have a new intern in finance and that she is *by the book*, so the message needs to be in simple terms. He said that they needed to get the address and the information to claim it from Niskamoon.

Mr. Courcelles asked when he should send the e-mail to Mr. Gilbert.

Mr. Gilbert said before the end of next week.

Mr. Dunn asked if they could commit to doing it before July 4.

Mr. Courcelles said that July 4 would be the deadline.

Mr. Dunn said that it needed to be before July 4, to make the guy happy.

b. Research program on Cree knowledge and land use: proposal from the Chisasibi Research Institute (M. Dunn)

Mr. Dunn explained that the CERRI had submitted a proposal for the traditional use study. He said they had asked for two third-party analyses for budget purposes but to date, had only received the first one. He said the proposal makes it evident that the study was well done and provides sufficient reason for them to be involved.

He also said he was concerned about the level of experience, since it calls for a lot of organization and therefore requires someone highly experienced. He added that the one person involved is an archaeologist and has neither conducted interviews nor participated in a land use study of this magnitude.

He then suggested bringing another experienced researcher on board. He proposed sitting down with this person and telling them they wanted them involved in Chisasibi, then asking how much they were prepared to get involved with the communities, pointing out that the team needs to liaise with the teams in Wemindji and other communities. He emphasized that, since all teams need to be on the same page, sitting down and seeing how it could all work was essential.

Mr. Dunn said that discussions are ongoing; however, if they do bring other people on board, both the CERRI and the communities need to feel comfortable with this. He said many aspects to the proposal (e.g., geese) don't specifically address social studies, adding that they needed to focus on the project's primary aspects and that once they had done this, they could then discuss other things. Mr. Dunn reiterated that they needed to get traditional knowledge first, after which they can tackle the rest.

Mr. Pachano said that geese are not where people used to hunt, and you can see which way they are going, but that people don't believe the Cree when they say the geese are on the move.

Mr. Dunn said that traditional knowledge should be the first aspect treated.

Mr. Pachano said that the land users wanted Hydro-Québec to understand this concern. He said that, for instance, the old goose blinds provide indications of where they were hunting geese and where the eelgrass beds were located. He said that an overview was needed.

Ms. Durocher said they needed to streamline the issues and that nobody is questioning where the eelgrass beds were. She said they needed to determine the key questions and focus on those.

Mr. Pachano said that a lot of land users will provide more info because they want to understand the changes that are happening.

Ms. Saganash said that for the sedimentation studies, they had already discussed sample locations and needed to be taking samples. She added that locations were as-yet unconfirmed and needed to be validated with the trappers.

Mr. Dunn suggested they take a step back. He said he had no problem with what Roderick had said and that it is subject to discussion. He added that if they can come up with a plan, he would be willing to sit down and discuss it, but that the problem is the timeline. Mr. Dunn said that with regard to traditional knowledge, given the way their proposal was structured, this study would not be before 2021, whereas normally it should have already begun. He added that they needed to agree on a timeline because by 2021, it would be too late. He said that they had to make this clear and figure out a timeline that would work for everybody.

Mr. Tapiatic asked if raising all these topics was just wasting time. He added that what concerned him was whether people were prepared to work together or were just acting independently. He suggested they start looking for a third party to do the work. Mr. Tapiatic then asked whether it was a good idea to work with the CERRI, given all that had happened in the past week, adding that they would need to set up a meeting really soon to stop losing time. He also said it felt like somebody was trying to sabotage the program, and that the CERRI does not want to talk to the SC, just with the Board and Niskamoon.

Mr. Pachano said they needed to step back and see who is causing problem, and separate the people from the institution. He pointed out that Chisasibi's Chief and deputy chief are on the Board of Directors and said he did not believe personality was the issue. He said that he was told they have posted a job for a biologist, which to him means they are moving ahead.

Mr. Dunn said that he recognized the proposal analysis took a longer time, and that was his responsibility. He said he agreed with the committee members that they needed to separate the person from the institution, but that this is particularly difficult for them.

Mr. Tapiatic asked how long they are going to wait because they are pretty well all over the place.

Mr. Pachano said that they had better hurry up then.

Mr. Dunn said that perhaps when they do sit down, there will be several people at this meeting, hopefully the SC members, and that they would raise those concerns during the meeting. He also said he thought there are other concerns that needed to be raised.

Ms. Durocher said they wanted to work with a research institute, not a political institute, with data that they could examine with a clear and open mind and get over the political debate. She said she thought that is what they are trying to do, with a third independent party. She said she was ready to work with the CERRI if they are ready to do the research and get the data.

Mr. Dunn raised a concern about the CERRI's manpower. He said they just have Mr. Gauthier-Doucet for now. He asked whether this was sufficient as well as whether he has the required managerial experience or whether he needs support.

Ms. Saganash also asked whether the Cree Nation could provide support to the CERRI.

Mr. Pachano said that Mr. Doucet would not conduct the interviews because he does not have experience and does not speak Cree.

Mr. Tapiatic noted that there was a group of women trained by Clotilde Pelletier who had done a good job previously. He said that this was the best team they had. He had asked them if they wanted to do interviews and they answered that they had tried, but will not. Mr. Tapiatic said that they did a good job, especially with the translation, sitting together and discussing how to translate various phrases; there are many ways to translate any one phrase and so this was why it was a good team. He added that it takes time to train people like that; also, they have to be really into it.

Mr. Dunn said that if they did it once, they can do it again. He said that they have to sit down with the CERRI. He added that whether they are willing to work with the committee and let the politics go remains to be seen.

Ms. Durocher said that, based on Mr. Doucet's questions, it seems there is already a lot of stuff published; however, she did not think he had everything at hand. She felt from his questions that there was more information he should have before starting and said that she was ready to provide it.

Ms. Saganash asked Mr. Dunn when the meeting with the CERRI will take place.

Mr. Dunn said that an e-mail to that effect had been sent to the CERRI the previous day (June 26, 2018) and that they are waiting for an answer. He said that he would send a follow-up e-mail.

The meeting paused at 10:40 and resumed at 10:50.

c. Research program on oceanography – coastal (A. Tremblay)

Mr. Tremblay said that sampling has started in Wemindji and Chisasibi, adding that Mr. Rabbitskin is managing logistics well. He said the research team had problems accessing certain areas due in part to the presence of ice. According to Mr. Tremblay, the ISMER plans to pursue their field investigation in August and September 2018 and during winter 2019. He said they will be using helicopters for sampling sites located far from the coast and skidoos for those that are near the coast. He raised his concern that the research team had planned on having only five stations along the Wemindji, Eastmain and Waskaganish traplines, saying they needed more stations south of

La Grande River. The research team, he added, was very happy with the services of assistant field coordinator, Laura Lee.

Mr. Courcelles said it was a key concern for them too. If the Many Islands tallyman does not want them to be there, they are better off searching for another location.

Mr. Dunn concurred with Mr. Tremblay that the ISMER needs stations in other places, since there is no guarantee that the Coastal Habitat Research Program will continue in 2019–2020. He said they are really pushing for this but that nothing is confirmed. He added that they would be well advised to perform sampling in Eastmain. He said that Laura Lee gave good feedback last year. He added that they were finishing in the morning because they had to perform the analysis afterward.

Mr. Tremblay said that Laura Lee was very pleased about that and really happy with Ernie's work. He added that she needed to get used to working in this kind of context, but Ernie helps her a lot.

Mr. Dunn said that during the pre-meeting, concerns were raised about the size of some groups. He said they should provide all of their names because they are many: for example, for Rimouski they are 13 people; Manitoba, 4 people, for Fred short, 2, UQAM, river 8 people. Mr. Dunn reiterated that it is a lot of people.

Mr. Cheezo said that it amounts to almost one person per river.

Mr. Dunn said that he had asked to have their names to share with the community.

Ms. Saganash asked for a general calendar for where they will be and when, like a general picture.

Mr. Tremblay answered that Virginie Galindo has a calendar.

Mr. Dunn asked if she could send it to them.

Mr. Tremblay approved.

Mr. Courcelles said that if they send it to each and every one, it is not good.

Mr. Dunn suggested the secretary merge the calendars into one and send this to every member.

Ms. Durocher said that it has been two years since she discussed that.

Mr. Dunn said that all the information should be sent to Ms. Bois-Charlebois for her to compile and send it to people.

Ms. Saganash said that they should have it to keep the community informed, pointing out that this is part of the communication plan.

Mr. Kanatewat said they see too many people, so it would be good to let the community know it is for the same group. He added that this would be good because there are too many different faces at the same time.

Mr. Tremblay said that this is something to change, adding that it is frustrating for the communities.

Mr. Dunn suggested posting the list of researchers' names on the door of the local representative's office.

Ms. Saganash said that they should make a radio announcement about the project in general and the schedule in particular.

Ms. Durocher said that this could be discussed at item 8 of the agenda.

Mr. Dunn said that the contract with the Université du Québec à Rimouski had been finalized. He said the budget for that research project had been altered slightly: an additional \$10,000 along with an additional \$90,000 subcontract to the University of Manitoba. He stated that in fact, they had been unsuccessful in seeking funding — that there is a lot of equipment and that usually those kinds of funding programs are not for equipment. Mr. Dunn said other funding was not impossible but that he thought it might be too late.

d. Research program on Oceanography – rivers (A. Tremblay)

Mr. Tremblay confirmed that the UQAM team is heading into the field around July 18. He said that the helicopter will visit each community and there will be some boating involved with people from each community. He added that Mr. Rabbitskin is planning those visits with the representatives and that all is going well. He said that they will start with Chisasibi and then go south. Mr. Tremblay said there is a team for the whole study area, 13 rivers.

Mr. Courcelles asked if they had spoken with someone about the equipment on the Harricana River.

Mr. Tremblay answered that they will not put equipment there because there is already equipment from the Ministry. He added that they will go over the entire river by helicopter.

Mr. Courcelles asked if anybody will be aware that they are landing with a helicopter and recommended advising them.

Mr. Dunn explained the context.

Mr. Courcelles said it is the same as at Eastmain River, and that there, they advise people. He said that a team will arrive at the Harricana River without anyone knowing, and that this is something that should be communicated.

Mr. Tremblay asked who they should talk to.

Mr. Dunn also wanted to know who to talk to, since part of the river is in Ontario.

Mr. Cheezo asked if they should talk to Moosonee.

Mr. Dunn answered that they should not bother the chief for a five-minute sampling.

Mr. Tremblay said that from August/September until winter, they would cut back on sampling because of the cost.

Mr. Courcelles said that given the frequency they will be there, it would be neighborly to advise Moosonee.

Mr. Dunn asked Ms. Saganash if she had any contacts in Moosonee.

Ms. Saganash answered that she probably did.

Mr. Pachano asked how they determine the site to sample.

Mr. Tremblay answered that there is one site at the mouth, and two or three stations inland to make sure there is no salt water. He added that salt water is sampled by Ms. Galindo and freshwater by UQAM. He said they have stations in the different parts.

Mr. Dunn said that Paul Del Giorgio should write an e-mail providing the coordinates and what he will do by helicopter as well as the dates they intend to be there. He said he would forward the message to Ms. Saganash and he suggested that Ms. Saganash, as a representative of the Cree Nation government, contact people in Moosonee.

Ms. Saganash said that he should forward the message to her and she would send it to Moosonee, just to let them know.

Mr. Pachano said that sometimes there is no place to land.

Mr. Tremblay answered that the helicopter has floats and can land on water.

Mr. Pachano said it is better to see where they wanted to land before landing.

Mr. Dunn suggested asking in the e-mail whether they knew of a good landing site.

Mr. Tremblay said they had decided to go by helicopter because it is easier to land.

Mr. Pachano suggested looking at a map.

Mr. Tremblay said that they could do this, but that it would not indicate the water levels.

Pachano said that if the currents were too strong, they could take the sample without landing.

Mr. Tremblay said that they could, that they can stay and hover. He added that it takes 10 to 20 minutes per station to take the sample. He said that the next field campaign design will be adjusted based on the difficulties they experience during this campaign.

Mr. Kanatewat asked how many rivers they will sample.

Mr. Tremblay answered 13 coastal. He added that there are four to five around Chisasibi and if they can access them, there will be others around the Bay of Many Islands.

Mr. Dunn said that, for the benefit of Ms. Mark, they give land users the option of observing the sampling. He added that if anybody were interested, she just had to let them know. He understood there are stations inland and on the coast and asked if the inland stations were on the James Bay road.

Mr. Tremblay confirmed that they are.

Mr. Dunn said that in Wemindji, the rivers are the Maquata and the Old Factory. He said that they will need to inform the locals, who canoe on the river. He added that the team will be in each community, so the team can explain to the users what they are doing.

Ms. Durocher asked Mr. Tremblay if he could provide Ms. Mark with the terms of reference and schedule, so as to help her when she met with the land users.

Ms. Mark gave Mr. Tremblay her e-mail address because he said everything he had is still under William Blackned.

Mr. Dunn said that the contract with UQAM had not yet been signed and that it was \$12,000 over what had been originally planned. He said that they also had moved budgets around between the years and that some equipment they had asked them to purchase had not been part of the original budget.

Mr. Cheezo asked if the site would be accessed by boat.

Mr. Dunn said that boats would be used for every site accessible by boat and that this is better for relations; however, if it were to take three hours to get somewhere to take a 15–20 minute sample, this simply wouldn't make sense. Common sense will therefore prevail.

Mr. Tremblay said that data-measuring equipment (eight hydrometric stations) will be installed on the rivers and that engineers from Hydro-Québec will help with the installation. He said the same type of measurement is performed everywhere. The equipment is to be installed on July 5 or 6 and the data analysis will be the sole responsibility of UQAM.

e. Research program on eelgrass: proposal for 2018/2019 and terms of reference (M. Dunn)

Mr. Dunn reviewed a document entitled *Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Program 2016-2019 – Study on Eelgrass Ecology in Eastern James Bay – June 5, 2018*. A copy is appended to the minutes. He said that before going over the terms of reference form with Fred Short, he would show him the additions to the document. He said he had informed Mr. Short of the additions and that he would be talking to him in the afternoon. Mr. Dunn then explained the changes. He said that the last part had been removed because they are not ready to commit to another year and that this will need to be discussed.

Ms. Durocher asked if there were a section stipulating that the researchers will leave the research tools and methods with the community. She pointed out that if Chisasibi were to pursue the study, they would need the tools and methods.

Mr. Dunn answered that he is developing a long-term tool for the community, citing a passage at point 2 of section 2 of the document. After a conversation with the members to make a few changes, he asked if everybody was okay with the revised version. Everybody said yes.

Mr. Courcelles asked if Mr. Dunn would send the revised terms of reference to the committee members.

Mr. Dunn said that he would have to discuss it with Mr. Short, but that he would send these once they were approved.

Mr. Pachano said he was concerned about the fact that Mr. Short's team had an activity report but no result. He said that a lot of people were asking why no-one is providing the findings. He added that they should provide more assistance to the users.

Mr. Courcelles said this was a really good point. He said he had discussed it with the Niskamoon Board and that they wanted to hold a conference with all the researcher groups. He added that they needed to get on with the progress report by all the researchers, providing results and recommendations. A field report was insufficient.

Mr. Pachano said that they are spending a lot of money.

Mr. Courcelles agreed that they were, and that it is why they needed more results.

Mr. Dunn said that he agreed with them both. He added that, judging by what he has heard from the researchers, this was reasonable. He said it was less reasonable from New Hampshire, but that this summer is expected to yield some results.

Mr. Courcelles said that it would be good for the beginning of 2019.

Mr. Dunn said that by end of this year or early next year, they will need some results reports. He added that some teams are still in the field at the end of the year and thus will have nothing yet to report.

Mr. Courcelles answered that this was why he had said early next year.

Mr. Dunn said they will present their findings, not just what they are doing.

Mr. Pachano raised the issue of algae that had been discussed at the last meeting. He said that people think it is toxic, adding that one of the groups had said algae growth is caused by phosphorous, another had said nitrogen, and that they can't agree. He raised the question: if they cannot agree, what they will do, stop eating the fish? He said it had been the same with mercury — that everyone stopped eating all kinds of fish because of that. He said that this image of sick fish had persisted.

Mr. Dunn said that Mr. Short had confirmed the blue algae they had found in James Bay was not toxic. He said this is why they needed to hold the meeting in August 2018: namely, to inform the community of their findings and address the land users' concerns. He added that they need to obtain the data to address those concerns with any certainty. He said that they will take the opportunity to reiterate the algae information.

Mr. Pachano said that sometimes the researchers contradict each other and that this could throw their credibility into question.

Mr. Courcelles said this could happen when groups disagree on what they believe.

Mr. Dunn said that the researchers don't necessarily think about this stuff.

Mr. Gilbert said that sometimes, both are right because one is using one nutrient and the other, another type.

5) FIELDWORK LOGISTICS

a. Update from Ernie Rabbitskin

Mr. Dunn wanted to add the following points: *c. House rental in Chisasibi, d. RV parking for the river team and e. Lodging for Wemindji.*

Mr. Dunn said that since Mr. Rabbitskin was unable to attend the meeting, he (Mr. Dunn) would relay what Mr. Rabbitskin had told him. He said that everything was going very well, adding that when they get out onto the field, the land users participate and are interested. He said that Laura Lee did field work and lab work as expected and that she is well integrated into the research team. In a nutshell, things are going smoothly.

A discussion took place about the fact that some researchers had been asked to leave the residence. This is discussed at point C.

b. Mobile laboratory and lodging (A. Tremblay)

Mr. Tremblay said that they'd had some problems because the manufacturer had made mistakes and had to build a new one. He added that this caused delays. He said the work should have been done last week but that the laboratory is currently in the shop; it was expected to be delivered to Montréal this week. He added that the refrigerator needed to be fixed and all the lab equipment will be installed in the trailer when it is delivered to Chisasibi the following week. He said that they are getting there. He added that the building is 24 feet long, with four feet of storage, making for a lab measuring 20 feet long by 8.5 feet wide.

c. House rental in Chisasibi

Mr. Dunn said he thought everyone was aware of this: the oceanography researchers had been told to leave a house in Chisasibi. He thought perhaps there had been some misunderstanding,

because they are not renting but just staying for two weeks. He said that hopefully the team will resolve things because they did not know. He added that he did not like the way they had gone about it: they had been intimidating, ringing and knocking at the door many times, and yelling at Urs Neumeier. He said the researchers will make a complaint and that this kind of behavior is unacceptable.

Mr. Tapiatic said that people who are against the research program try to intimidate the researchers. He added that this is not the way that Chisasibi people treat people, that the policy says you have to be nice to the visitors and that the DGO is waiting for a letter.

Mr. Courcelles asked who would write the letter.

Mr. Dunn answered that he would ask Mr. Neumeier for a letter outlining the incident and that hopefully he would do it on the same day.

d. RV and mobile lab parking space

Mr. Dunn said that the River team will be arriving soon, staying in an RV and using the mobile laboratory. Consequently, they will need a parking spot where electricity and water can be provided. Mr. Dunn said that close to the Wemindji hotel, they have a hose. He asked Ms. Mark if she could ask them if the RV can park there, adding that in Chisasibi, they can use the area beside the Niskamoon office. He said that as far as the mobile laboratory is concerned, they will need a schedule.

Ms. Mark said she would ask.

Mr. Kanatewat said that Chisasibi has empty cluster. He said that the contact person is Daniel Pachano.

Mr. Dunn suggested that Mr. Rabbitskin contact the community to find places where RV and mobile laboratory can park.

Mr. Pachano asked how long they will stay in Chisasibi.

Mr. Dunn answered that they will be there on the same day as the team. He said that regarding the mobile lab, they would hold an open house and that this is fun.

Mr. Courcelles said there are lots of things to see in their trailer, lots of samples.

Mr. Dunn said it would be fun to tell people to bring tap water to make some analyzes.

e. Lodging in general

Mr. Dunn said that in general, lodging the various teams in the communities was a problem. He asked Ms. Mark whether she could look into renting a house in Wemindji.

Ms. Mark answered that they can ask the rental board and that they do have some units.

Mr. Dunn said they could rent the house of someone who is away for the summer.

Ms. Mark answered that she would get back to the committee on this point.

Mr. Dunn asked whether, in Eastmain, they could stay at the Mandow Inn.

Mr. Cheezo answered that they could use the Mandow Inn.

Mr. Dunn said that in Waskaganish, they could stay at the Siibii Camp.

The meeting paused for lunch at noon and resumed at 1:45 p.m.

The Committee returned to item 4) e. of the agenda.

Ms. Durocher said that she has concerns in connection with the document sent by Fred Short entitled *Research on the Ecological Health of James Bay in Relation to the Cree Natural Resources – Eelgrass Field research, Community Activities, and Fact Findings – Proposal to the Niskamoon Corporation for 2017-2020, with focus on work proposed for July 2018 – June 2019, submitted March 2018 – by Fred Short, Project Director, University of New Hampshire and Dante Torio, Ph.D., co-Principal Investigator, University of New Hampshire*. A copy is appended to the minutes.

Mr. Dunn said he will ask Mr. Short to present his results at the August meeting in Chisasibi. He said that the terms of reference that had been discussed this morning were based on the document sent by Fred Short and Dante Torio.

6) COORDINATION BETWEEN RESEARCHERS: REVISED MANDATE FOR ZOU ZOU KUZYK (M. DUNN)

Mr. Dunn said he had spoken to Ms. Kuzyk about the coordination mandate and that she had agreed with the idea, but would like a different title. He said that she would prefer *Integration Lead*. He asked the SC whether they agreed to this new title; the SC said they did. Mr. Dunn said that a meeting between the researchers must be organized in October 2018 to give them the opportunity to discuss integrating the results.

Ms. Durocher asked whether Ms. Kuzyk is aware that the task is to integrate the results of all the studies.

Mr. Dunn confirmed that she was aware.

7) DENSITY, BIOMASS AND STATE OF HEALTH OF EELGRASS WITH THE ISMER (A. TREMBLAY)

Mr. Tremblay said that on many occasions, the SC has asked Mr. Short to conduct biomass surveys and that his responses were always uncertain; we never really knew if he wanted to do it. He added that in this context, he had asked the ISMER to submit a proposal and that the ISMER had recently sent it to him. Mr. Tremblay said that the ISMER's proposal would complement Mr. Short's proposal submitted in March 2018.

Mr. Courcelles said the 2018–2019 budgets have all been approved and that no additional money is available. He said that any budget approved for the ISMER's proposal will have to be come out of Mr. Short's budget.

Ms. Saganash said that Mr. Short had said he was going to do it.

Mr. Tremblay said that Ms. Kuzyk had told him she does not believe Mr. Short will follow the full biomass protocol, but just a part of it.

Mr. Dunn said that Mr. Short had told him he was under a lot of pressure from the other researchers to do it, and so had said he would do it. He added that Mr. Short intended to do it at low tide using snorkeling equipment. Mr. Dunn said that Mr. Short uses snorkeling equipment to allow for better control while sampling underwater. He added that if the SC disagreed with Mr. Short's approach, it would have to write it all down; he would then communicate the SC's proposition to Mr. Short.

Mr. Gilbert said he remained unconvinced that Mr. Short wanted to do the biomass protocol for the eelgrass. He was also unsure as to whether Mr. Short understood exactly what needed to be done, unlike the ISMER, which fully understands the study's nature and scope. He expressed surprise that Mr. Short can carry out this study.

Mr. Dunn said that although Mr. Short is not a researcher like the others, he has credibility with the Chisasibi community. He said that Mr. Short had called Mr. Sealhunter to convince him to let researchers study the eelgrass on his trapline. He added that Mr. Short cares about the project and that he supports the SC, just as he did with this call. Mr. Dunn said that it is clear that he needs to make terms of reference and that they should give him two weeks to submit the protocol on eelgrass biomass.

Mr. Courcelles said that the ISMER and Mr. Short had received the same terms of reference to prepare their respective proposals.

Mr. Dunn confirmed that they had.

Ms. Saganash said that the important component they failed to consider is that they have to obtain the data, and that right now they do not have it.

Mr. Dunn asked how much eelgrass could be sampled at low tide. He said that if guys do the sampling by snorkeling at low tide, how much can you get? If he insists he can do it, it is his problem to make sure he does it.

Mr. Tremblay said that working at low tide poses logistical problems, since low tide is at night. He said his concern was that Mr. Short had not provided any of the data he was supposed to and that they have not seen anything as a committee; so he wondered if he would.

Ms. Saganash suggested removing biomass from Mr. Short's mandate but letting him keep the other activities linked to his mandate.

Mr. Kanatewat said they could ask him how soon he could submit the protocol.

Mr. Dunn said that this is new: they had not asked him before, so it depends. They will have to ask him to submit a protocol within two weeks or else they will end the contract.

Mr. Gilbert said he had agreed because at the beginning, it wasn't supposed to have been done by Mr. Short.

Mr. Dunn said he had not included this study in the budget.

Mr. Courcelles asked how he can do it with \$100,000.

Mr. Dunn answered that his whole budget is about time. He added that he will just make better use of the time, this is why he doesn't change the budget.

Mr. Gilbert asked whether they were able to cut Mr. Short's budget. He said that it is over-budgeted.

Mr. Dunn said they needed to understand that budgeting is not as simple as it seems. He said that they're basically saying they cannot trust him.

Mr. Courcelles said he did say he did not want to do they want.

Mr. Dunn said that, to his way of thinking, Mr. Short is doing precisely what they ask him to do. He added that he does not realize the problem. He said that he has done everything they asked him to do in the budget. Mr. Dunn said he understands their dissatisfaction, but that nobody has a better relationship with the land users. He added he thought they would be playing with fire if they took him off the project.

Ms. Saganash asked if everything in the other proposal was included in Mr. Short's proposal.

Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Tremblay said they did not know.

Ms. Saganash asked why they do not just give him the protocol.

Mr. Dunn said that they cannot send him a protocol they received from someone else they have asked behind him back.

Ms. Saganash said that indeed they cannot; but why they don't send Mr. Short what they want?

Mr. Dunn said he preferred to tell him they wanted the protocol and then see what happens. He said they had agreed to work with university experts, so they are not allowed to treat them like consultants and the experts cannot treat them like that either.

Mr. Gilbert said that, if they were to do everything but the biomass, something would be missing. He said that the others are pushing Mr. Short to do it because it is at the project's very core. He added that it is really important and it is not being done properly. He said he did not see Mr. Short as he can provide the results to the committee.

Mr. Dunn said he thought this was a valid concern and that he had shared it with Mr. Short.

Mr. Pachano said that if they intend to take money from his budget and give it to somebody else, there are components that cannot be adjusted like the salaries. He added that, realistically, unless they add more funds, things won't change. He said he would ask Mr. Short to do the protocol and then see if they can deal with what he provides.

Mr. Gilbert said that in his protocol, Mr. Short needs to put everything they need. He added that if they needed to take some money out of his budget, that would be fine.

Mr. Pachano said that they can use the proposal they have and ask questions, then say: here is the proposal we have from somebody else.

Mr. Tremblay said he would go further than that and have Mr. Del Giorgio evaluate the proposal. He said that until Mr. Short provides something they can evaluate, they cannot do a thing. He added that based on his experience, it takes 20 minutes to write a proposal like that. He said that if they have it, he will be more than happy to go with Mr. Short.

Mr. Dunn said he did say he will send most of the samples to the ISMER anyway. He added that he is comfortable with that and that he thought they needed to push him — that taking a step away will make things worse. He said that in the terms of reference, they will ask Mr. Short to consult with the ISMER and to report back to the SC.

Mr. Courcelles said that since the SC is in agreement with this approach, he asked that Mr. Tremblay inform the ISMER that Mr. Short would contact them.

8) COMMUNICATION PLAN, ACTION PLAN AND NEWSLETTER

Ms. Saganash said that any comments regarding the communication plan should be sent to Ms. Bois-Charlebois, who would compile the comments and send them to the SC members.

Ms. Durocher asked Ms. Saganash if she had identified the actions and responsibilities.

Ms. Saganash said that she had, and that some actions had already been accomplished, like the newsletter. She said she would ask Ms. Bois-Charlebois to compile and draw up a schedule. She said that maybe Cynthia Taylor could arrange it because it is not so easy to read.

Mr. Pachano asked how this was publicized, e.g. on the radio station or anything like that.

Ms. Saganash said that that was the purpose of the plan, i.e., to know what to do, and that they have not determined what to do next. She said they had yet to discuss it. She herself felt the plan was quite complete, but that they needed to follow through. She asked who would be taking responsibility for the presentation, the announcement, and they just needed to follow through what is proposed as an action. She added that she wasn't sure the extent to which the newsletter was distributed.

Mr. Courcelles said it was distributed in the communities.

Mr. Dunn said that he had seen it around. He asked Ms. Mark.

Ms. Mark said she had as well.

Ms. Saganash asked if the newsletters have been translated into Cree.

Mr. Dunn said that they had not.

Mr. Kanatewat asked why.

Mr. Dunn answered that it is because they do not have someone to translate and that it is costly. He suggested waiting for the third edition and that the three first editions could then be translated and issued together in September 2018.

Ms. Durocher asked what the third one was about.

Mr. Dunn answered that it was about the geese.

Ms. Saganash said she had given the summary to Ms. Taylor and that she did not know what she had done.

Mr. Dunn answered that Ms. Taylor had put it together.

Ms. Durocher said maybe they should use it to advertise the September geese campaign that Mr. Gilbert had mentioned.

Mr. Courcelles said that it could be good to publish it before the beginning of September.

Ms. Saganash said that they had presented the researchers (the non-Cree experts), so it would be good to have a newsletter that mentioned the Cree experts. She added that it could be the same way they talked about the researchers.

Mr. Pachano said he agreed.

Ms. Saganash said she did not know whether Ms. Taylor would have time to work on that.

Ms. Durocher said that she should do separate editions and not pair it with the goose edition.

Mr. Dunn said that it would probably be better to prepare the goose edition, because the surveys are coming, and the Cree interviews could take time. He suggested that the next newsletter be about the Cree experts. He added that it is not just a matter of interviewing but also translating, and that this is a lot of work.

Ms. Durocher said that every community should identify beforehand which expert has to be interviewed.

Mr. Courcelles asked Mr. Cheezo, Ms. Mark and Mr. Tapiatic if August would work for them.

Mr. Dunn said they had Jean-Francois Giroux's proposal. He said that if Ms. Taylor used the proposal, she would have a lot of stock.

Ms. Durocher asked whether they already have something about the geese.

Mr. Gilbert said that they had worked on something.

Mr. Dunn said he would give Ms. Durocher and Mr. Gilbert until July 5 to send an introduction and a nice text.

Ms. Saganash asked Mr. Dunn if he wanted to put something about it in the *Nation Magazine*.

Mr. Pachano said that he did not understand. He wondered whether, if you put something in the Nation, you had to pay for it.

Mr. Dunn said he did not remember, but thought not if the information were about the project.

Ms. Saganash asked if they should do something because that was part of the communication plan.

Mr. Dunn said that if the *Nation* wanted to do it, this was fine.

Ms. Saganash said she would contact them and the CBC.

Mr. Pachano asked if you had to pay if you publish in the Nation.

Ms. Saganash said that sometimes, if you manage to get it into an issue related to the content at hand, you will not have to pay.

Mr. Dunn said that the last edition of the *Nation* was about the preventive spillage.

a. ASLO

Mr. Tremblay said that the joint participation of Niskamoon–Hydro-Québec in the congress in Victoria, B.C. had been well received. He said that the eelgrass program was presented and that Mr. Rabbitskin gave a good presentation.

b. Aboriginal Day in Chisasibi

Mr. Dunn said that there had been Aboriginal Day festivities in Chisasibi and that the Oceanography team had brought their sampling equipment and was on hand to answer people's questions. He wanted to let everybody know that it had all been very well received, and suggested they do the same with the lab.

9) CHISASIBI EYYOU RESOURCE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CERRI)

a. Request from Vincent Gautier-Doucet, Anthropology Dept. Administrator

Mr. Courcelles said that he would provide a courtesy translation. He said that that request had been sent on June 8 from Vincent Gauthier-Doucet to Luc Duquette (a copy is appended to the minutes), with four requests (translation by Ms. Bois-Charlebois):

1. The CERRI's Board of Directors would like to access a presentation on eelgrass made to the community of Chisasibi by Danielle Messier, a biologist employed by Hydro-Québec. This presentation would have been made several years ago and, according to those present at the time, would have stipulated reasons for the decline of eelgrass on the James Bay coast, particularly at the level of the Chisasibi traplines.

2. Based on condition 5.35 of the Certificate of Approval for the Rupert River Diversion Project and Eastmain-1-A, Sarcelle, research on traditional knowledge (the Traditional Knowledge project) was undertaken by Hydro-Québec. Jean-Philippe Gilbert presented some of the research produced by Hydro-Québec on November 4, 2015, at the Special General Assembly of the Government of the Cree Nation. He discusses the research in this presentation. We would like to have access to the report on this project.

3. Based on conditions 8.1 and 9.1 of the same Certificate of Authorization (which address cumulative impacts research for the James Bay and Hudson Bay hydroelectric developments and include the development of Cree traditional knowledge), we would like an update on the efforts to date to document and counter these impacts, especially those concerning the Chisasibi territory and population.

4. Finally, one of our board members recently informed us that regular updates of the La Grande River water levels were sent to several people in Chisasibi. If possible, we would like to add the CERRI to this list. The information should be sent to cerri@chisasibi.ca.

Mr. Dunn asked why CERRI keeps reopening the same debates that they were trying to close.

Ms. Durocher said she did not think they had the report.

Mr. Gilbert said they don't, but that the reports are public.

Mr. Pachano concurred that it is public information.

Mr. Gilbert said that you just have to go online and you can download it.

Ms. Durocher said that they are online, but that maybe for somebody not used to using the Internet, it could be difficult. She offered her support.

Mr. Courcelles said that they can go onto the Web site and find public reports. He added that they cannot say they haven't been given the report because it is public.

Mr. Pachano said that Luc Duquette should have answered that, because the request had been made to Hydro-Québec and not to the SC.

Mr. Courcelles said that he could have, but that in the e-mail, certain things touched upon the SC's mandate. He agreed that in principle, it was between the CERRI and Hydro-Québec, but that if a subject touched upon the research program, the SC should be informed. He continued with item 2 of the e-mail.

Ms. Durocher said that it is the same issue and that they can provide access to the documents. She said that the e-mail states what they did it in the presentation, so it shows they had the presentation.

Mr. Gilbert said that this is also in the public domain, so he can go and look for it.

Mr. Courcelles asked if it was on the same Web site.

Mr. Gilbert answered that it was cherloc.ca.

Ms. Durocher said that they needed an access.

Mr. Gilbert said that they do, but that there is a phone number on the website.

Mr. Pachano said the SC is not mandated to address these issues and that they should be addressed by Hydro-Québec.

Mr. Courcelles said that his remark was well noted and that Hydro-Québec would address the CERRI's question internally.

b. Invitation to a conference on eelgrass in Chisasibi, September 18–19

This item was postponed until later in the meeting.

10) PREVENTIVE SPILLAGE (R. COURCELLES)

Mr. Courcelles said that some meetings had been held in some communities (Chisasibi and Kuujuaq) about this subject. He said the reason they are presenting this subject is because it may affect the plume and the research. He added that due to large amounts of rain and snow, the reservoirs are close to maximum capacity — not *at* their maximum, but close. He said that Hydro-Québec wanted to make room in the reservoir to absorb the runoff. Mr. Courcelles explained that as opposed to releasing a large volume of water all at once, they would spill less over a longer

period. He said that Hydro-Québec would be releasing water at Duplanter, which is why they had to talk with Inuit communities as well. He added that, on June 7, a meeting of the Rupert Board had been held and that a letter had been sent to the President of Hydro-Québec Production confirming that the Board was open to releasing water in the Rupert River to relieve pressure in the La Grande area.

Mr. Pachano asked if they would spill into the Eastmain River.

Mr. Courcelles said that they would not, since Niskamoon is developing a major spawning site there. He added that they have three points where water will be released: in the Rupert River, at Duplanter and below LG-1. He said that obviously, the water will go to the bay and that the researchers will need to consider this.

Ms. Durocher said that the spill had already started and was managed in such a way as to remain within the historical range. She explained that this summer the researchers would see a lot of water, though not the worst-case scenario. She added that Hydro-Québec is managing the spill so as to release water in different places, in order to limit the amount of fresh water at Chisasibi. She said that what they would be seeing this year amounts to an exceptional condition.

Mr. Tapiatic spoke in Cree. He then said that his second grandmother's cabin was flooded. He said that the water had risen to where it had never flooded before.

Ms. Durocher said that this is because of the amount of water they received.

Mr. Tapiatic said that it is, and that it had rained for 24 hours, like in the jungle.

Mr. Cheezo spoke in Cree with Mr. Tapiatic.

Ms. Durocher said that they had already advised the researchers.

Mr. Tremblay said that they had sent an e-mail to the researchers to advise them that the plume will be bigger this spring and in summer, so they need to adapt.

Ms. Durocher asked if he had sent the e-mail to Ms. Kuzyk.

Mr. Tremblay said that he had sent it to all the researchers and that they are aware that it could continue until October, but that Hydro-Québec is not sure.

Mr. Pachano asked how long the situation would continue.

Mr. Courcelles said that this was not easy to answer — that the regional weather also had an influence, making things hard to predict. He said that from what he understood, it all depends on the weather; for this reason, he was unable to provide a timeframe.

Mr. Pachano asked how much the flow would increase.

Ms. Durocher answered that the historic flow was under 4,000 cubic meters; this is therefore the expected volume.

Mr. Tremblay said that, since it is usually 3,200 cubic meters per second, then 4,000 represents a 20–25% increase over normal operation until October, maybe shorter or longer.

Mr. Pachano asked if this had ever happened before.

Ms. Durocher said that it had, which is why Hydro-Québec will spill at three places, to be sure that the water at LG1 will not rise above what had happened before.

Mr. Pachano said that he thought it was important for people to know that it will not surpass what had happened in the past.

Ms. Durocher answered that they had discussed it beforehand, but that at the time, people had been more concerned about the spring flow. She said they had held a meeting in Chisasibi to inform community representatives about the spillages.

Mr. Tapiatic asked whether Mr. Duquette were leading this.

Ms. Durocher answered that he was not, and that in terms of communication, it was Katerine Desforges.

Mr. Pachano asked if it would have an impact on salinity.

Ms. Durocher said that for the research, it would.

Mr. Tremblay said that this is why it is important to document that.

The meeting paused at 3 p.m. and resumed at 3:10 p.m.

The committee returned to item 4) e. of the agenda.

Mr. Dunn said that he had spoken to Mr. Short during the break about the subject they discussed earlier and that Mr. Short had agreed to all the changes requested by the SC.

Mr. Courcelles said that the Niskamoon Corporation will approve all budgets for 2018-2019 at its board meeting on July 19, 2018.

Ms. Durocher asked if adding funding from other organizations was part of the plan.

Mr. Courcelles confirmed that it was.

Mr. Dunn said that they had been unsuccessful in seeking funding from other institutions to date, and so are not expecting much. He said that if the members hear something about funding to let him know. He said that the protocol is expected for July 9, 2018.

Mr. Tapiatic asked if they could see how much Niskamoon had spent along with the amounts that will come from different entities. He added that he is going to need to answer to the people who ask.

Mr. Courcelles said that the proposal for gear enhancement is a different thing.

Mr. Tapiatic answered that he was talking about the actual research.

Mr. Courcelles said that he has the theoretical budget.

Mr. Pachano said that what Mr. Tapiatic wants is a global amount spent on this, in a year.

Mr. Courcelles answered that he can provide it. He said that they are always late sending those invoices; so they would have an amount, but they know it will be more. He said that he does have the global budget for all the researchers, but that it does not reflect reality. He said they can work on that until 2019 but not beyond that time.

The committee returned to point 9 b. of the agenda.

Mr. Dunn said that he had written an e-mail, including excuses for the first ones, because he was surprised at the request and was really unhappy with CERRI. He said that he offered the committee support to attend the conference, but that he had asked if they could postpone it by a month or two, because they have nothing new to say.

Mr. Courcelles said that September 2018 would be too soon to hold the conference. He said that the different teams won't yet have analyzed their summer field campaign results; therefore nothing new would be presented. He said January 2019 would be more appropriate.

Mr. Dunn answered that it would be more interesting to have the researchers with results to share, but that it was really up to them. He said that it is up to them to choose the date and the content.

Mr. Kanatewat said that on September 18, people are goose hunting, so would not be available to attend the conference.

Ms. Durocher said they had invited some researchers to the conference but not others, so she felt they should ask Ms. Kuzyk to present everything or advise the others to attend.

Mr. Dunn said that they should wait for the CERRI to respond before doing that. He said Mr. Short had shared that some people believe the people from Rimouski and elsewhere are hired by Hydro-Québec and are not fulfilling the research objectives. He said he does not think this is the case and that it is bad that they think that.

Mr. Tremblay said this means they need to communicate better.

Mr. Tapiatic said that even when they communicate, some don't show up, and that those are the ones causing the problems.

Mr. Pachano said that maybe they should talk to the Chief about the mandate and research.

Mr. Kanatewat said that he thought so, and that the Chief would have to inform the people about the eelgrass program and the researchers involved.

Mr. Tapiatic said that whenever they have a meeting, the researchers come on the traplines, because a lot of trappers work with the researchers. He said he does not know why they say they are not informed. He added that they say which sites they will visit and how many they are, so the users are informed. Mr. Tapiatic said that he does not know who say they are not informed. He added that they are going on all the traplines except for CH4 and CH5, because they were banned from those places.

Mr. Pachano said that John Paul Murdoch's presentation took up more than half the meeting and that people were disappointed because they did not want Mr. Murdoch to talk, they wanted the people to speak at this meeting. In that case, they had wanted Niskamoon to listen to the people.

Ms. Durocher wondered if it would help to set aside a time for the trappers to come to the next meeting in Chisasibi.

Mr. Courcelles asked if she was referring to the meeting in January.

Ms. Durocher said that she was referring to the one in late August, because all the researchers will be there. She said they could ask them to explain what they have done, as well as present some posters and their plan.

Mr. Tapiatic asked if this had already been planned.

Mr. Courcelles answered that it had.

Mr. Dunn said that he thought public meetings are a good idea.

Mr. Pachano asked if they had considered opening the meeting to the trappers.

Mr. Dunn wondered whether a lot of this has to do with people expecting results and that the problem is that they do not yet have any results. He added that the results they have are not worth reporting. Mr. Dunn said that he thought opening the meeting to trappers is a good idea, that those are public meetings and that if they want to come, they are welcome. He added that from his experience, it is very technical and the trappers will be bored.

Ms. Durocher said they could keep half a day for the researchers with posters, and people could come and ask questions. She said that maybe not all of the meeting, because she understood they could be bored.

Mr. Dunn said he wrote an e-mail to tell Chisasibi that they need to hold a meeting with land users. He added that they had not answered but that he would write to them again to tell them they do need to meet with the CERRI and the users. He said that if they did not receive an answer the following day, he would write back to tell them we needed a meeting with the users as soon as possible. As for the August meeting, they could wait and see.

Ms. Durocher said that they should already ask the researchers to prepare something that could be given to Chisasibi.

Mr. Courcelles said that the summertime lab visit would be good, too.

Ms. Durocher said it would, but that a poster could be presented too.

Mr. Tapiatic said it would be best to display it at the Band office.

Ms. Durocher said that they can put the posters up wherever they like.

Mr. Dunn said they could put them up at the lab.

Mr. Tremblay agreed and said that the lab would be opened.

Mr. Cheezo said he thought they would need to inform the trappers, since a lot of them do not appear to understand the purpose.

Mr. Dunn said that they will tell the Chief of Chisasibi that they need a meeting with the land users, the Council and the CERRI's board.

11) NEXT MEETING (CHISASIBI, WEEK OF AUGUST 20): AGENDA, LOGISTICS AND COMMUNICATION WITH THE RESEARCHERS

A discussion took place concerning who would be available or not the week of the next meeting.

Mr. Dunn said that the land users are welcome to attend all meetings. He said that they just have to remind land users that they can attend whenever they want and that in addition, they would have a three-hour session for questions and posters. He said that it would take five minutes to describe what they have been doing this year and outline their findings.

Mr. Gilbert asked if this will be open to the public.

Mr. Dunn answered that all the meetings are open to the public.

Mr. Gilbert asked why they needed to meet with the CERRI.

Mr. Dunn said that it would be later because they don't have anything new to present.

Mr. Tremblay asked what they would present in August.

Ms. Durocher answered: the preliminary results.

Mr. Dunn asked if they are going to be able to.

Ms. Durocher answered that if they have any. She added that they want the activity report but if they have preliminary results, these should be presented. She said that people like Mr. Short who

have preliminary results should present, and that they should certainly be ready to present something more formal to the committee.

Mr. Pachano said he thought the main purpose was to provide the results of their studies, last year's studies. He said that they have until June to complete that.

Mr. Tremblay said that two groups can present: the UQAR campaign and Mr. Short's group.

Mr. Courcelles said that the presentation should cover the geese too, and that it also will be an opportunity to meet each other.

Ms. Durocher said that when they present everything, the purpose should be to meet and talk about integrating the results.

Mr. Courcelles said that lot of things can be brought to the table, and also by Ms. Kuzyk, who is the head coordinator.

Mr. Dunn asked if they wanted the preliminary results on the poster.

Ms. Durocher and Mr. Tremblay answered that no, just the method.

Mr. Courcelles said that they want the objectives too.

Mr. Dunn said that they have a poster to make and a report of what they did last year.

Mr. Gilbert asked if they should plan to have a full day for the Researchers.

Mr. Tremblay answered that they should.

Mr. Dunn said they we could reserve a room and give them the opportunity to discuss among themselves.

Mr. Courcelles asked if there were enough rooms for everybody at the hotel.

Ms. Bois-Charlebois said that Josée Rousseau had said to check with the hotel first and then with LG1.

Mr. Courcelles said they would need two conference rooms: one for the researchers and one for the committee.

Mr. Dunn said that the researchers can use the Niskamoon conference room and that at the hotel, there is a room on the third floor big enough for everybody. He said that the meeting should be planned as follows:

August 20 – pre-meeting

August 21 – a.m. lunch with the land users. Open house

August 21 – p.m. and August 22 all day, with the researchers

August 23 – SC meeting and researchers, each meeting with their respective groups

12) MEETINGS SCHEDULE FOR 2018

Mr. Dunn said that the conference should be in January, so they should meet on November 21-22 to set the conference. He added that the pre-meeting could be on the 21st and the SC on the 22nd, in Montréal. He said he would recommend considering a draft agenda for January.

Ms. Durocher asked which conference he was referring to.

Mr. Dunn said that if it is not with the CERRI, they have to do it on their own.

Mr. Courcelles said that they need to have that in January to present some results to have additional funding.

Mr. Dunn asked if the conference would be held in Chisasibi.

Ms. Saganash asked if the CERRI had confirmed.

Mr. Dunn answered that they had not.

Mr. Courcelles said that if the CERRI is sticking with October, they will go there; but that nothing has yet been confirmed. He added that if they wanted to hold the conference in January, it could be done jointly. He said that they do not want to boycott or hide anything, but that they want real results.

Mr. Dunn said that if the CERRI agrees to January, the CERRI can organize it, but they must put all the researchers on the program.

Mr. Courcelles said that January 28–31 would be great.

Mr. Dunn said he does not want to pressure anyone.

Mr. Courcelles said he'd simply said the last week of January would be good. He asked if Mr. Tremblay would be comfortable drafting an agenda for this conference if the CERRI does not participate.

Mr. Gilbert said they could do it together.

13) TO-DO LIST

Ms. Bois-Charlebois explained that she did not have the to-do list on hand and that she would ask Ms. Rousseau for it for the next meeting. The item was deterred to the next meeting.

14) MANDATE OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE (SC)

This item has been addressed under item 10 herein.


15) VARIA

a. Eeyou Marine Board

Ms. Saganash asked whether the Eeyou Marine Board had asked to have an observer at the SC meetings.

Mr. Dunn said yes, but had been told they should contribute financially to the eelgrass program.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.



Norman Cheezo, Chair of the meeting