
MINUTES OF THE MEETING STEERING COMMITTEE (SC)

Meeting No° 71
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
 Videoconference – TEAMS

Present:	Marc Dunn	Niskamoon Corporation
	Luc Duquette	Hydro-Québec
	Jean-Philippe Gilbert	Hydro-Québec
	John Lameboy	Cree Nation of Chisasibi
	Ernest Moses	Cree Nation of Waskaganish
	Mimie Neacappo	Niskamoon Corporation
	John Lameboy	Cree Nation of Chisasibi
	Manon Sorais	Eeyou marine region wildlife board
	Ernie Rabbitskin	Niskamoon Corporation
	Robbie Tapiatic	Cree Nation of Chisasibi
	Cassandra Weapenicappo	Cree Nation of Eastmain
Guest:	Mila Oser (Secretary)	Hydro-Québec
Absent:	Felix Boulanger	Hydro-Québec
	Josée Lefebvre	Canadian Wildlife Service
	Marie-Eve Lemieux	Hydro-Québec
	Geraldine Mark	Cree Nation of Wemindji
	Daniel Brosseau	Hydro-Québec
	Graeme Morin	Cree nation Government
	Roderick Pachano	Cree Nation of Chisasibi

MEETING CHAIR AND SECRETARY

Melanie Leblanc chaired the meeting, and Mila Oser acted as the meeting secretary.

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Review and approval of the minutes from the following meetings:
Meeting # 70 - January 29, 2025
3. Next cultural exchange in British Columbia in August
4. Miscellaneous
5. Summary and Next Steps
6. Next Meeting

Meeting started at 9:00 AM**1. Approval of the Agenda**

The Chair reviewed the agenda, and no additional points were proposed. Thus, the agenda was approved as presented.

2. Review and approval of the minutes from the following meetings:

Meeting # 70 - January 29, 2025

The minutes of the meeting 70 were reviewed and approved.

3. Next cultural exchange in British Columbia in August

Melanie Leblanc (**Mrs. Leblanc**) introduced the idea of a cultural exchange on Vancouver Island, which was proposed by WWF Canada. She explained that Marianne Fish from WWF Canada contacted Mary O'Connor about organizing an activity in BC and visiting coastal settings. Mrs. Leblanc suggested visiting eelgrass beds around Vancouver Island and meeting with different coastal communities. She proposed the last two weeks of August or October for the activity, noting that WWF Canada would cover some expenses, including flights and boarding. Mrs. Leblanc also suggested limiting the number of participants to the steering committee, Cree members, and their partners.

Robbie Tapiatic (**Mr. Tapiatic**) expressed a preference for August and suggested that everyone should fly due to the long distance and high mileage costs.

Marc Dunn (**Mr. Dunn**) also agreed with the suggestion to fly, emphasizing that driving would be at participants' own risk and expense. He stated that if someone chose to drive, it would be their problem if they didn't make it to the destination.

Mr. Dunn raised a few questions regarding the logistics and expenses for the cultural exchange. He asked Mrs. Leblanc if she had a clear understanding of what WWF Canada is willing to pay for, noting that a flight from Montreal to Vancouver alone is not sufficient. He pointed out that participants would be driving in from up north, which incurs additional costs, including lodging and other expenses. Mr. Dunn emphasized the need for clarity on what expenses WWF Canada would cover.

Mr. Dunn raised concerns about the logistics and expenses for the cultural exchange, emphasizing the need to clarify what WWF Canada is willing to cover. Mrs. Leblanc responded that WWF Canada mentioned they could cover flights from Montreal to Vancouver and all expenses in Vancouver, including boat rides and lodging. However, due to tourism in August, lodging might be limited, which is why the number of participants needs to be restricted. Mrs. Leblanc added that if another organization could cover the costs from the communities to Montreal and possibly the hotel, WWF Canada would cover the rest.

Mr. Dunn acknowledged the need to budget for these expenses and confirmed that the activities would be in and around Victoria. Mrs. Leblanc mentioned the possibility of visiting the Hakai Institute, a coastal research institute, and other communities, involving boating, sightseeing, and exploring eelgrass beds. She emphasized the need to gauge interest from the steering committee before moving forward with detailed planning.

Mr. Dunn expressed his support for the idea but mentioned he would likely give up his place for someone else, as he works in BC and could attend at minimal cost. He highlighted the importance of the Cree delegation bringing gifts, noting that the First Nations on Vancouver Island are very well organized and would take the exchange seriously.

Mr. Dunn emphasized the importance of ensuring that everyone on the steering committee agrees that the cultural exchange is worthwhile and recommended that all steering committee members provide their opinions to ensure consensus.

Luc Duquette (**Mr. Duquette**) asked Mrs. Leblanc to summarize the objective of the trip. She explained that it would be like the trip and activities the steering committee had in Tabusintac, focusing on visiting coastal areas, discussing coastal settings, eelgrass beds, and meeting with communities to learn about managing and conserving these habitats from a Western Canadian perspective.

Mr. Duquette inquired about the initiator of the project, and Mrs. Leblanc clarified that WWF Canada contacted Mary O'Connor. Mr. Dunn then asked if the event would be documented. Mrs. Leblanc was unsure but agreed to bring it up in the next meeting.

Mrs. Leblanc agreed to organize a second meeting to discuss these details and give more information before the steering committee could make a final decision.

4. Miscellaneous

N/A

5. Summary and Next Steps

- Melanie Leblanc will contact Marianne Fish and Mary O'Connor to organize a second meeting.
- Melanie Leblanc will give Ernie Rabbitskin a day's heads-up before the meeting.
- Melanie Leblanc will schedule another steering committee meeting to discuss the activity in more detail after the meeting with Marianne Fish and Mary O'Connor and keep Mila Oser, the Secretary, informed.

6. Next Meeting

At this point, no further meeting date was set.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

Considering that all items on the agenda were addressed, the meeting is adjourned at 9:30 AM.

The meeting secretary,

Mila Oser

Mila Oser

The meeting Chair,

Mélanie LeBlanc

Melanie Leblanc