

TGIRT-EIJB Lebel-sur-Quévillon FMU 87-51 and 87-62

Report from the
EIGHTEENTH MEETING

Held on December 7, 2020 by videoconference through Microsoft Teams



Gouvernement régional
d'Eeyou Istchee Baie-James
Eeyou Istchee James Bay
Regional Government

APPROVED ON: JUNE 15 2021

ATTENDING

Delegates:

Mrs.	Audrey Gauthier-Dubuc	-	Town of Lebel-sur-Quévillon
Mrs.	Catherine Lagacé	-	Town of Lebel-sur-Quévillon
Mr.	Luc Bossé	-	OBVAJ
Mr.	François Denis	-	Produits forestiers Résolu

Observers:

Mrs.	Johanne Morasse	-	EIJBRG
Mrs.	Amélie Dusseault	-	Cree-Quebec Council on Forestry
Mr.	Éric Labelle	-	MFFP
Mr.	Martin Filion	-	EIJBRG (animator)

TGIRT-EIJB LEBEL-SUR-QUÉVILLON

EIGHTEENTH MEETING

1. Call to order, introductions

The meeting begins at 1:15 PM. The animator welcomes all participants and asks them to introduce themselves.

2. Reading and approval of the agenda

The animator reads the agenda.

On a motion by Mrs. Audrey Gauthier-Dubuc, duly seconded by Mr. Luc Bossé, it is unanimously agreed to approve the agenda as proposed.

3. Reading, follow-up and approval of the minutes of the meeting held on December 10, 2019

The animator reviews the minutes and pays a particular attention to the decisions and follow-up items.

All the follow-up items and decisions were covered. On a motion by Mr. Luc Bossé, duly seconded by Mrs. Audrey Gauthier-Dubuc, it is unanimously agreed to approve the minutes as proposed.

4. Correspondence

A notice from the mining company Osisko regarding exploration work on the Urban-Barry property was received on September 22, 2020.

5. Follow-up on the issues

a. Issue of the water quality – proposed recommendation

The animator displays a proposed recommendation developed during the last TGIRT meeting. A study was completed in 2012 regarding several lakes in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay territory. The document will be placed in the members section immediately after the meeting. It is proposed to revise the dates in order to update the recommendation proposed recommendation. The animator clarifies the 4 requests that are part of it. An observer asks to clarify the awareness activities that are mentioned in the first request. She also asks to attach the follow-up chart referenced in item 6 to the proposed recommendation. A delegate asks from what started the proposed recommendation so that he can have a context. The animator mentions the work of the Villebois and Valcanton TGIRT where, in early 2018, there was a public health issue that had been discussed for a while. The delegate suggests clarifying which lakes should be listed in the proposed recommendation, including also those that will be clarified at the Waswanipi TGIRT. Regarding the volume of clarifications and complements to be added to the proposed recommendations, the animator suggests delaying its expedition, taking the time necessary to make all additions and clarifications requested and come back with a revised proposed recommendation at a future meeting.

The approval of the proposed recommendation is postponed to a future meeting. At item 4 of the proposed recommendation, the working will be changed as follows: "... awareness activities with the population regarding the consumption of fish". The follow-up chart mentioned at item 6 will be attached to the proposed recommendation. At item 5, the lakes that are affected will be indicated by listing those who were part of the above-mentioned study and adding other lakes that the delegates wish to add.

6. FSC certification of FMU 87-51

The delegate from Produits forestiers Résolu introduces the new FSC standard. We wish to increase the understanding of the stakeholders regarding the role they can have regarding the certification. The delegate displays his presentation and invites the participants to refer to it if necessary. The FSC standard exists since a certain time but has been changed considerably on June 3, 2019. Indeed, the Canadian version of the new standard now replaces the 4 regional forest management standards. This amendment was an opportunity to update the main issues, including the maintenance of the woodland caribou and the respect of the rights of the First Nations. The presentation includes several hyperlinks to references.

A map of the presentation shows the portrait of the forestry certification in Quebec. Throughout Quebec, the forest territory being managed is almost entirely covered by one or the two standards in effect, i.e. the FSC standard or the SFI standard, or both at the same time. On the territory of the TGIRT' the FSC standard covers FMU 87-51. The presentation also gives a comparative chart of the ten criteria of the FSC standard before and after the effective date of the revised standard, in January 2020. The delegate mentions the main benefits of subscribing to the FSC standard for an applicant and the stakeholders.

The new FSC standard is the result of negotiations and compromises from the stakeholders that can be divided into four distinct groups: the natives, the environmental sector, the social sector and the economic sector. All the stakeholders involved voluntarily or involuntarily must compromise to maintain the certification since they all benefit from the fallouts. The delegate explains the notion of free, prior and informed consent. The delegate discusses the participation methods of the various stakeholders regarding the various aspects of the forest planning and related interventions.

The FSC standard has 6 categories of HVC. The applicant must propose solutions to ensure an adequate consideration of each of the six categories.

The delegate briefly discusses the cooperation approach that must be adapted to the local needs and methods. He invites the participants to send him their questions and comments at this time or by email. It is a continuous improvement process and they are open to suggestions to improve the local consultation process. A response is anticipated at the next meetings of the TGIRT.

7. Regional Technical Committee on the development of a road management plan

The animator reviews the context in which the development of a road management plan was requested at the Matagami TGIRT. He mentions the members that are part of the committee. The French minutes and the other work documents of the committee are available in the members section, in the general part visible by the members of all TGIRTs.

The first meeting of the technical committee was held on October 19. During this meeting, the members started establishing the plan structure and the table of contents. A member also asked to be able to propose and accelerated road closure procedure when applicable. A member suggested following an agreement reached for the Selbaie road that, for a few years, is no longer the responsibility of the ministère des Transports of Quebec. It was also proposed that the EIJBORG set up a Facebook page in order to broadcast continuous information regarding the work performed on the roads or when events occur that render a road unusable for example. Finally, the members asked to have Cree representatives on the committee so their concerns regarding the roads can be taken into consideration from the start.

8. Presentation of the public consultation reports on the special plan regarding burn 72, the PAFIO and the PAFIT

The public consultation on the special management plan for the recovery of burn 72 took place from July 2-29, 2020. This burn is located in FMU 26-66 near Hébert Lake. It touches slightly FMU 87-62. During the first step, the special plan aimed to recover about 50,000 cubic metres of softwood, including 1,000 cubic metres in FMU 87-62. The MFFP observer displays a more detailed map than the one included in the consultation report.

Two comments were received during the public consultation: one from an outfitter and another from a fishermen's association. In short, it was asked not to harvest wood or to do it in November. Usually, the wood harvest done under a special plan takes place in winter. For this burn, it was necessary to return a bridge to operation at a cost estimated at \$100,000. Considering the small volume of wood to harvest and the costs to access it, no beneficiary has expressed interest in harvesting this wood. Now, the MFFP is examining how the return to production will be done.

Regarding the consultations on the amended PAFIO, during the March consultations, there were for comments about FMU 87-51. In the first comment, a user mentions that a culvert was blocked by beavers, which blocks access to his summary

shelter. In response, the forest road maintenance is planned and performed based on the user pays principle. If the forestry companies do not need a road, they will not maintain it. Another comment was related to the information on the periods of operation and the specific consultations with the users that are directly affected. The MFFP will contact directly the outfitter who made the comment. The third comment was a trapper who asked to maintain a potential for martens in his trapping territory. The MFFP provided a reassuring response, stating that there is no harvest planned in this trapline at this time. Finally, the last comment was to ask that the wood harvest be planned outside the moose hunting period. This request was forwarded to the affected BGA who replied that he anticipated completing his harvest operations before this hunting period. The consultations in August were only related to the FMUs of the Chibougamau management unit. Therefore, there is no presentation at this TGIRT.

The PAFIT that were the subject of public consultations were officialised and are available on the MFFP website. They are accessible in the members section. The observer reviews the most relevant comments for the TGIRT territory. It was mentioned that the maps are not up to date. The maps will be revised before the next consultations. The updates are related namely to certified territories and, more specifically, the large essential habitats, FHVC and HVC.

9. Statement of progression of the amended 2018-2023 PAFIT

Two PAFIT are available on the MFFP website and accessible in the members section, one for FMU 87-51 and one for FMU 87-62. The MFFP planner invites the members to consult the documents. He pays a particular attention to the most relevant elements for the TGIRT, including the formation of VOIC. At the moment, there are not that concern the TGIRT but the observer invites the members to develop them. He quickly discusses the timeline.

10. Modifications to the PAFIO

The MFFP observer displays a map on the screen. There is no modification regarding the harvest work for both FMUs of the TGIRT territory. The only changes made are additions to the stand education work. In FMU 87-51, there are new scarification areas to the southeast of Lebel-sur-Quévillon, between the Bell River and Route 113 and several other non-commercial work areas further west and north. In FMU 87-62, no new harvest area may be added at this time before 2022-2023 due to the terms of the Paix-des-Braves agreement and the fact that the limit corresponding to 700% of one year has been reached. It was still possible to add non-commercial work, namely in the northwest portion of Nicobi Lake.

11. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2021

The animator proposes a schedule of TGIRT meetings for 2021. Three dates are proposed to the members. The three dates propose are February 17, June 15 and December 7, 2021. These three meetings would start at 1:15 PM. This proposal is acceptable to all the members present.

12. Miscellaneous

a. Compensation measures for modifications to watercourses

A delegate calls upon the TGIRT to propose compensation measures in cases where a business, such as a mining company, makes changes to a watercourse such as moving its natural bed. He explains the context of his request, stating that it is part of a program by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This looks a lot like the terms introduced in the Environmental Quality Act a few years ago to compensate for the loss of wetlands. Eventually, it would be interesting to establish a bank of such projects, namely to answer the consulting firms that are already contacting organisations like the OBVAJ. The animator is not comfortable that the TGIRT could meet such a need, considering the specific mission it must pursue. The animator also expresses a reservation about the idea of mobilising TGIRT time to meet a need of mining companies who do not participate in the work of the TGIRTs and do not even understand its mission. The delegate makes a clarification that it is mostly consulting firms that express such a need. The delegate is not directly calling upon the TGIRT but mostly the members and their respective fields. An observer also expresses a reservation considering the specific role of the TGIRTs and the difficulty in fulfilling it, and knowing that the watershed organisations also have TGIRTs to discuss the issues related to water.

13. Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 3:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2021.

On a motion by Mrs. Catherine Lagacé, duly seconded by Mrs. Audrey Gauthier-Dubuc, it is unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

ACRONYMS

BGA:	Beneficiary of a supply guarantee
FSC:	Forest stewardship council
FHVC:	Forest with a high conservation value
TGIRT:	Integrated Land and Resources Management Panel
EIJBRG:	Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government
HVC:	High conservation value
MFFP:	Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
OBVAJ:	Abitibi Jamésie watershed organisation
PAFIT:	Tactical Plan for Integrated Forest Management
PAFIO:	Operational Plan for Integrated Forest Management
SFI:	Sustainable forestry initiative
FMU:	Forest Management Unit
VOIC:	Value, objective, indicator, target