

# TGIRT-EIJB Waskaganish FMU 085-62

## Minutes of the **SEVENTEENTH MEETING**

Held on November 19, 2019 in the Conference room of the Kanio Kashee Inn,  
7 JSC Watt Street, Waskaganish



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

**APPROVED ON: NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**

# ATTENDING

## Delegates:

- |                                  |   |                                   |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Mr. Samson Wischee               | - | Community of Waskaganish          |
| Mr. Patrick Paiement (telephone) | - | Beneficiary of a supply guarantee |
| Mr. Ryan Erless                  | - | Civil security                    |
| Mrs. Barbara Hester              | - | Environment and water             |
| Mr. Wayne Cheezo                 | - | Joint working group               |
| Mr. Darin Wagner (telephone)     | - | Mining exploration                |

## Observers:

- |                                     |   |        |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------|
| Mrs. Isabelle Fortin (telephone)    | - | MFFP   |
| Mrs. Marie-Ève Larouche (telephone) | - | MFFP   |
| Mr. Martin Filion, animator         | - | EIJBRG |

# TGIRT-EIJB WASKAGANISH SEVENTEENTH MEETING

## 1. Call to order, introductions

The animator welcomes all participants and asks them to introduce themselves.

## 2. Reading and approval of the agenda

The animator reads the agenda. He is asked to add an item "Closure of Fenelon Road" under miscellaneous.

*On a motion by Mr. Wayne Cheezo, duly seconded by Mr. Samson Wischee, it is unanimously agreed to approve the agenda with the requested addition.*

## 3. Operation rules – Approval of the minutes

The animator informs the members that, from now on, the observers and delegates may propose and second the approval of the minutes of the previous meetings, on the condition that they were present at the said meeting. The animator takes advantage of this item to verify with the delegates to know if they managed to use the members section. The delegates did not succeed. They had technical problems related to the network. A computer technician is currently working on the issue. The animator will do a follow-up to resolve the issue of accessing the members section as soon as possible.

## 4. Reading, follow-up and approval of the minutes of the joint meeting held on November 20, 2018

The animator reviews the minutes and pays particular attention to the decisions and follow-up items. The members pay attention to item 4 where it was an issue of doing a follow-up on the refurbishing of a bridge on Route 1027 crossing the Kitchigama River. The members locate the bridge on an interactive map shown on screen. They also locate the limits of the trap lines and those of the FMUs. A delegate questions the method used to divide the territory of the TGIRT base on the limits of the FMUs instead of those of the trap lines. Thus, there are two trap lines divided between two TGIRTs and one trap line of the community of Waswanipi within the territory of the Waskaganish TGIRT. The delegate adds that the affected tallyman should also be part of the Waskaganish TGIRT, which is not currently the case. The members discuss to see who could be added to the composition to represent this trap line. At this time, they notice possible errors in the composition. The animator will proceed with an update of the composition and the addition of a seat to represent the affected trap line.

Returning to the issue of division of the territory of the TGIRT which does not coincide with that of the trap lines and the inconveniences it causes, the animator mentions a first possible solution which would be to review the division of the FMUs and the TGIRT at the same time. For the MFFP representatives, this option cannot be considered. To counter some of the inconveniences raised by the delegates, the MFFP representative mentions that, when necessary, the community of Waskaganish will be consulted specifically for the portions of trap lines located within FMU 085-51. However, for the animator, this solution does not solve the inconveniences at the TGIRT level. Other possible solutions are being explored by the EIJB and the animator expects to be able to mention them to the delegates in the near future.

*On a motion by Mrs. Barbara Hester, duly seconded by Mr. Wayne Cheezo, it is unanimously agreed to approve the minutes with the correction of the few errors noted.*

## 5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

## 6. Follow-up on the issues

### a. Do not disturb the bear dens

The animator presents the latest update of the issues grid. Regarding the issue of conservation of the wildlife habitats, a need had been raised to not disturb the bear dens. The delegates make some clarifications regarding this issue. A representative of the BGA group explains the manner in which the bear dens are protected during forestry operations. According to the terms of the RADF, when a den is discovered during the winter operations, it is protected but this protection only applies during the winter when the den is occupied. A delegate mentions that if a den is only protected during the winter and then destroyed during the fall operations when it is not occupied, it will not be available to be used when the winter comes and for the next 10-15 years. This greatly affects the traditional Cree way of life in the territory. Thus, the Paix-des-Braves agreement states that the response terms must be adapted to maintain the traditional way of life in the territory of application of this agreement. How can a partial protection time-wise ensure the respect of the traditional way of life? In response, the representative from the BGA group explains that a den is only considered sensitive during the time it is occupied. In the spring, the bear leaves his den and does not necessarily return the following winter. According to a delegate representing the joint working group, this is not completely true. A bear will not necessarily return to the den he occupied the previous winter but there are chances that he will return if the den remained in good condition. The users of the territory know it and this conditions their traditional way of life. For the representative of the BGA group, the protection discussed here must apply more to the bear than to the den and not necessarily to the user of the territory. The representative of the joint working group reaffirms his disagreement for the previously mentioned reasons and reminds what the Paix-des-Braves agreement includes. The representative of the BGA group asks the MFFP representative if a protection that is more adapted to the traditional way of life can be applied to the bear dens. The discussions were misunderstood and a delegate expresses his preference that all members participate in the TGIRT meetings in person instead of by telephone.

At the request of the animator, the delegate of the joint working group provides clarifications on the manner in which bears use the dens from one year to the other. A single den may be used for one or more years by the same bear or by different bears. It could be unused one year and then used the next one. It is therefore not appropriate to only protect the dens during the winter and this affects the traditional way of life. Another delegate asks how an operator can know if there is a den when he is harvesting wood in the winter. In response, the MFFP representative explains that we can see the steam produced by the bear's breath coming out of the snow. Another question was asked to know the radius of the protection zone around a den, according to the RADF. In response to a question from the animator, the MFFP representative explains that the notion of biological shelter does not apply to a bear's den. A representative of the BGA group explains that it is difficult to determine the existence of a den when there is no bear.

In order to formulate a position that is as close as possible to a consensus, the animator asks the delegates if they wish to see the bear dens protected permanently and not only when a bear is present. A delegate confirms that this is what he wishes. He explains that in a span of 10 years, it was observed that a den may be occupied for about 8 winters. The MFFP observer explains that it is not necessary to ensure a permanent protection since, once the harvest is done in an area, it will not be visited again for many years, except to perform silviculture work, such as scarification and reforestation. A representative of the BGA group adds that in FMU 08-62, the wood is only harvested in the winter. The delegates present in Waskaganish examine briefly these explanations. The animator asks the delegates present if they would like to have a presentation of the conditions included in the RADF and maybe those anticipated by the forestry companies, if they have one. The MFFP observer proposes collecting this information and sending it to the participants by email during the next few weeks. The delegates present discuss them. In response to a question from the animator, a delegate mentions that there is only one known bear den in FMU 085-62. For the BGAs, a delegate mentions that, to his knowledge, no bear den has been discovered during forestry operations in the recent years. The most recent and closest finding was two years ago in the Wawagosic area of FMU 085-51. Nevertheless, he will verify his form files and send a map if necessary. The animator summarises the actions planned in the short term and proposes to resume discussions on this issue at the next TGIRT meeting. All delegates present agree to this.

#### **b. Maintaining or increasing the woodland caribou population**

The animator discusses the maintenance or increase of the woodland caribou population. A presentation was made by Mrs. Sonia Légaré during the joint meeting held on September 5 in Matagami regarding the anticipated strategy to maintain and re-establish the woodland caribou habitat. Mrs. Légaré plans to give another presentation on this issue during the first meetings of the TGIRTs in 2020. The delegates agree with this at this time.

#### **c. Issue of water quality and integrity of the aquatic habitats**

The TGIRT has a similar issue and it is anticipated that the MFFP will give a presentation on the terms currently included in the RADF. Afterward, the delegates can determine if these terms help to ensure an adequate protection or if additional measures should be added. The animator suggests doing the same at the Waskaganish TGIRT and the delegates agree. The MFFP observer will take the steps to obtain the presentation in English.

#### **d. Cohesion of the methods for dividing the territory**

This issue was raised at the last meeting held in Waskaganish and the animator is doing a follow-up. He will have some solutions to propose to the delegates in the near future.

#### **e. Issues as a whole**

During the last meetings, it was expected to work on some issues in technical committees, including the water quality. The MFFP observer asks if the committee will be reactivated. The animator mentions that the work on the issues will resume but if all members of present at a TGIRT meeting wish to be part of a technical committee, it becomes appropriate to do the work directly during a TGIRT meeting. Also, the animator displays an interactive map of the issues and explains the procedure proposed to work directly on this map between the meetings as well as during the meetings.

### **7. Change to the 2018-2023 PAFIO**

The planner indicates that there were no changes since the last version of the PAFIO. A delegate asks if forestry operations are planned for this winter. The BGA representative replies that there are none. A delegate takes advantage of the interactive map displayed on screen to express a concern regarding the mining operations in the Détour area of Ontario. The water from this mine flows into watercourses that reach tributaries in Quebec. Since the legal framework surrounding mining operations is under provincial jurisdiction, he wonders if the province of Ontario can guarantee the maintenance of the water quality the same way as in Quebec. The delegate from the mining exploration group provides some explanations. First, he clarifies that the waters from the mine flow into the Turgeon River. The specific conditions to ensure the maintenance of the water quality may differ between the two provinces. Nevertheless, the concern raised could be expressed directly to the authorities of the mine. Also, we can already expect that the authorities from the mine be receptive to performing a follow-up on the water quality. This is what the delegate suggests. A member of the community of Waskaganish mentions that a meeting is scheduled with the mining company during the last week of November. The animator asks to clarify the affected watercourses and asks if it would be relevant to list the in the issues map. The members identify the Turgeon River, which receives the waters from a smaller watercourse flowing in the area where the mine is located. The surrounding forest roads on the Ontario side may also cause sedimentation, which becomes a concern in terms of forestry responses. The observer from the mining exploration group adds that those are former roads. The animator mentions that the concerning elements will be highlighted on the issues map, including the Turgeon River, the watercourse from Ontario and the access road to the resource from FMU 85-51, in the smaller portion of the FMU to the East. It is mentioned here that these roads cannot be used since there is no longer a bridge in the Fénélon area. It is an area that was the subject of a road closure request. The road in question reaches FMU 85-62 where there is a trapping camp. Also, a harmonisation agreement was reached with the trapper to offer him an access through another road. To return to the PAFIO question, the BGA that is present in FMU 85-62 adds that they do not anticipate any harvest before 2023.

## **8. Mixed stand management strategy and directions regarding wildlife habitats**

Mrs. Sophie Dallaire from the MFFP provides a situation statement regarding the progression of this file. The work is currently being done in cooperation between the MFFP and the CNG in order to collect the concerns of the tallymen concerned by the mixed stand strategy, more specifically in the communities of Waswanipi, Oujé-Bougoumou and Mistissini. The comments received during a workshop held on May 30, 2019 will be considered in the development of the document. Mrs. Dallaire indicates the schedule of work for the next few weeks. In addition to the work in progress, the MFFP has implemented the transitional measures in order to maintain mixed stands at the trap line level. Regarding the directions on the wildlife habitats, work is in progress to develop approaches adapted to the needs of the various wildlife species in order to assess the quality of habitat for the various species. This is a large worksite, considering the limited personnel.

## **9. Amended PAFIT table of contents**

The MFFP observer summarises the amendments made to the PAFIT table of contents. We are not at the step of launching the public consultations on the PAFIT, just after the Holidays. One of the amendments made since the generation of the 2013-2018 PAFIT is a grouping of the FMU. One question is asked regarding item 4.4, to know if the PATP corresponds to the planning in progress at the CNG. The animator explains the PATP. He mentions that the EIJBRC must also complete this exercise for the Category III lands. He asks why this is found in the PATP table of contents since it is a government exercise.

## **10. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2020**

The animator submits a proposed calendar for the TGIRT meetings in 2020. For the delegates present, the meetings in February and June do not present issues in terms of schedule conflicts but the month of December is usually very busy. They suggest moving the meeting of December 3 to the first week of November.

## **11. 2019-2020 schedule of the Canadian Forest Service seminars**

In the absence of Mrs. Johanne Morasse who asked to add this item to the agenda, this item is not discussed.

## **12. Miscellaneous**

A delegate raises a public safety issue that affects the traditional way of life. He mentions that bears are hunted in the territory outside the hunting period and without permits. The bears are hunted and left there. The users of the territory would like to be able to report such actions as soon as they learn about them so that actions can be taken quickly. He asks if it would be possible to install radio communications infrastructures to cover not only the FMU but a broader territory, up to one or two hours from their hunting areas. The delegate also raises an issue related to the forestry operations and mining exploration, which is material abandoned on the site. Trappers also reported situation where they were cut off on the road. The animator suggests reporting the question to the authorities of the EIJBRC to see if solutions can be considered. The delegate also denounces a practice seen by the tallymen where they saw a hydroplane fly over the territory in the morning, probably to detect the moose and then return to the territory by land to hunt the moose thus detected. Another delegate adds that such practice is illegal and it is the same for drones.

*The animator suggests an issue "Safety of the users" and a need to facilitate the reporting of poaching actions and the application of the act. The delegates agree with the wording suggested.*

### **a. Closure of Fénélon Road**

The delegate from RYAM wishes to consult the delegates regarding a request for a road closure in the Fénélon area. The delegate participates in the meeting by telephone and the animator cannot locate the roads to close and the temporary bridge to be removed on the interactive map of issues displayed on screen. The delegate sends a map

to the participants by email but for technical reasons and other reasons related to the operational rules, the item cannot be presented the way the delegate wished to do so. Also, the area in question is located in FMU 085-51. The members present still try to locate the area at issue and the trap camp that the road provides access to.

### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting is adjourned at 3:45 PM.

*On a motion by Mr. Wayne Cheezo, duly seconded by Mr. Ryan Erless, it is unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.*

## ACRONYMS

BGA:	Beneficiary of a supply guarantee
TGIRT:	Integrated Land and Resources Management Panel
CNG:	Cree Nation Government
EIJBRG:	Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government
MFFP:	Ministère des Forêts, de la faune et des Parcs
PAFIO:	Operational Plan for Integrated Forest Management
PAFIT:	Tactical Plan for Integrated Forest Management
PATP:	Public Land Usage Plan
RADF:	Sustainable Forest Management Regulation
FMU:	Forest Management Unit