

TGIRT-EIJB NEMASKA

FMU 086-63

Minutes of the
SEVENTEENTH MEETING

Held on November 27, 2019 in the main conference room of the Cree Nation Building in Nemaska



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

APPROVED ON: JUNE 10, 2021

ATTENDING

Delegates:

Mr. Wayne Cheezo - Representative of trappers
Mr. Matthiew Tanoush - Environment and water

Observers:

Mrs. Johanne Morasse (by telephone until ?) - EIJBRG
Mrs. Isabelle Fortin - MFFP
Mr. Martin Filion - EIJBRG, animator

Guests:

TGIRT-EIJB NEMASKA 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.

On a motion by Mr. Wayne Cheezo, duly seconded by Mr. Matthiew Tanoush, it is unanimously agreed to approve the agenda with the requested additions.

3. Operating rules – Approval of the minutes

The animator informs the members that, from now on, the observers and delegates can propose and second the approval of the minutes of a previous meeting at the condition of having been at that meeting. The animator takes advantage of this item to inform the members that the operating rules will be updated after the Holidays. This will be clarified in the new operating rules.

4. Follow-up on the minutes of the joint meeting of the Matagami, Nemaska and Waskaganish TGIRTs held on September 5, 2019

The animator does a follow-up on certain presentation and discussion items, including the presentation on the anticipated strategy for the reestablishment of the woodland caribou habitat and the regional technical committee for the development of an access road management plan.

5. Reading, follow-up and approval of the minutes of the meeting held on July 4, 2018

None of the people present at that meeting is present. The minutes cannot be approved.

6. Reading, follow-up and approval of the minutes of the meeting held on February 7, 2019

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

On a motion by Mr. Wayne Cheezo, duly seconded by Mrs. Isabelle Fortin, it is unanimously agreed to approve the minutes as proposed.

7. Correspondence

There is no correspondence for this meeting.

8. Follow-up on the issues

The animator mentions the three issues of the grid and the related means. He asks the delegates present if they are ready and if they wish to take concrete actions related to the issues of the grid. A delegate asks if the issue of access to the territory is only related to forest roads. The animator mentions that it is in this spirit that the issue was

raised but adds some comments of the Chief of Waskaganish during the last EIJBRG Council meeting, in regards to the James Bay Highway. The delegate replies that his question is indeed in regards to these comments. He explains the problems experienced on this road, mainly on the first section where wood is transported. He adds that to the North of Matagami, sand is applied to the road while salt is applied to the south. In the portion of the James Bay Highway where wood is transported, the surface is more like compacted snow and even ice. Not only does this contribute to making the drive more dangerous but also the yellow line can no longer be seen. The vehicles tend to circulate in the middle of the road. The animator repeats in French for the benefit of the MFFP observer. She replies that it is the SDBJ that ensures the maintenance of the James Bay Highway and invites the members to contact this organisation directly. The delegate mentions that the issue is not related to the entire length of the James Bay Highway, but only on the portion where wood is being transported. With the development of mining activity, we can fear an escalation of the problem and an extension of it toward the north on this road, possibly up to the Tentale project. The animator will contact the person in charge at the SDBJ to ask if it is possible to apply more salt on the road. He asks the MFFP observer if the forestry companies should contribute to the maintenance of this portion of the road since they use it considerably for the transportation of wood. The observer replies that the maintenance of this road is entirely under the responsibility of the SDBJ. She adds that it is not only the forestry companies that use this road but also Hydro-Québec and the mining companies. Here is her view of the situation.

The animator will request clarifications from the SDBJ rapidly. He also proposes to add this concern in the issues grid, as long as it is possible to consider the concerns that exceed the territory of the TGIRT. This also concerns the Waskaganish TGIRT. The animator will take the dispositions to recognise a wider territory in order to consider this concern through the TGIRTs.

A delegate mentions that this concerns also the Waswanipi TGIRT since the trap line territory of Waswanipi also cuts into the territory of the Nemaska TGIRT. The animator mentions that Mr. Steven Neepeosh is also a member of the Nemaska TGIRT. The delegates agree that the composition could be revised.

The animator returns to the first issue and asks if actions could be undertaken. A delegate mentions that there is already a map of the sensitive sites in terms of forestry activities but that it is confidential. This map allows the planners to plan their developments far enough from sensitive sites and to make the consultation of tallymen more efficient. Among the sensitive sites, there are the sites and trails used by the moose, the spawning beds and other wildlife sites and other sensitive sites for traditional activities. The delegates do not wish to complete a map of the sensitive sites through the TGIRT at this time but still wish to maintain this action in the grid. Such a map should cover more broadly the sensitive sites, not only for the forestry operations but for all activities that could generate an impact on the environment. This action could become relevant in the future but we don't know when. The action is relevant but it remains to determine how it will be implemented. The animator moves on to another action listed in the grid which is the analysis of the riparian environments and the terms to ensure their protection. A delegate suggests increasing the width of the riparian strips to 30 metres from the beginning of the treed strata. He mentions that the risk of windfall can be increased when the protection strip is too narrow and in the presence of a root system from a less-developed tree cover. His concern is based on observations but it would deserve more in-depth analyses. In Ontario, the standards take into account the density of trees to establish the protection strips around lakes and watercourses. In the presence of a high density of the tree cover, a protection strip of 20 metres may be sufficient. The animator suggests examining the practices in Ontario in addition to the related documentation and come back at a future meeting to further discuss this question.

The animator will do a review of the literature on the Ontario practices and the studies supporting these practices, and will share the results of this review with the members of the TGIRT and bring back the topic for discussion at a future meeting.

The delegates mention some observations on sites in regards to the protective strips and more generally the forest managements done over the last few decades. The changes observed in the medium to long term can be related

to climate change. The animator asks the MFFP observer if the cases of windfall in the protective strips are recorded and if there is a recovery done in such cases. She replies that in cases of windfall, a special recovery plan is implemented. In some cases, especially when the areas are small, there is no response. In the cases of windfall in the protective strips, there is sometimes a response when the bearing capacity of the soil allows it.

The animator moves on to the issue of water quality and the integrity of the aquatic habitats. Before starting any action on this issue, the animator suggests having a presentation on the terms included in the RADF. Such a presentation is already scheduled at the Matagami TGIRT. The members agree to plan the same presentation after the Holidays. A delegate suggests putting forward a project to perform a follow-up on the water quality. The MFFP observer finds the idea interesting but this is not part of her department at the MFFP. According to her, this could be the responsibility of the ministère de l'Environnement or even the wildlife sector of her ministry. She will do some verifications on this. The delegates are concerned with the protection of the freshwater sources. As an example, the animator mentions a measure taken by the company Barrette Chapais. In order to protect the freshwater source of the Town of Chapais, the company established a FHVC to prohibit forestry operations. The protection of this freshwater source was confirmed by the Chapais-Chibougamau TGIRT and is now part of the mapped issues. The animator asks the delegates if they wish to do the same with the sensitive water sources in the territory of their TGIRT. A delegate mentions a former gravel pit where we find an artificial water basin that appeared after the extraction of the mineral substances at the surface. The site is visited regularly by Cree families and by other users of the territory. The clearness of the water contained in this basin can lead to believe that it good for consumption but we can doubt it. Warnings should be posted at such locations to inform the population.

Anticipate an action to post warning signs where there are water sources that are not good for consumption.

The delegates do not wish to add anything else to the issues grid at this time.

9. Modification of the 2018-2023 PAFIO

The delegates examine the paper map from the MFFP that was provided at the beginning of the meeting. They ask to add the division of the trap lines. The animator verifies that the MFFP observer understood the request. The delegates also ask to have the legend in English. The observer explains that it is a map for public consultation purposes. The maps for the specific consultation of the tallymen and the joint working group have this division of the trap lines and a legend in English. Since the public consultations are usually in francophone areas, she invites the delegates to refer instead to the maps destined for the specific consultations. Nevertheless, the animator adds that all documents destined to the TGIRTs should be in French and English. In this case, the observer invites the animator to submit this request to Mrs. Christine Morin of the MFFP.

The MFFP observer presents the modified PAFIO. She pays a particular attention to an area near Chabinoche Lake where it is planned to close a portion of a harvest road. In her opinion, it could be a winter road. She also brings the attention of the members to an area near the James Bay Highway. It is a very small area where scarification is anticipated.

At the request of the animator, the observer states that this is a consultation of the TGIRT. The delegates have no comment to make.

10. Mixed stands management strategy and directions on wildlife habitats

The MFFP observer provides a situation statement on 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 with the mixed stand strategy, more specifically the communities of Waswanipi, Oujé-Bougoumou and Mistissini. Once the concerns known, they will be added to the comments received during a workshop held on May 30, 2019 during the

development of the document. The observer states the steps for the next several weeks. In relation to the work in progress, the MFFP as implemented transitional measures to maintain the mixed stands at the trap line level. Regarding the directions on wildlife habitats, work is in progress to develop approaches adapted to the needs of the various wildlife species in order to assess the wildlife quality for the various species. This second worksite was temporarily put on hold to focus on the first. It is a massive site considering the limited personnel. In the end, we will be able to discuss to know if we prioritise the moose or the caribou which is an umbrella species. For the planners, they will have decision-making tools at their disposal.

11. Modified PAFIT table of contents

The MFFP observer summarises the modifications made to the table of contents of the PAFIT. This step is part of the consultation process which includes a consultation of the TGIRTs. We are now about to launch the public consultations on the PAFIT, starting on January 6, 2020. One of the amendments made since the generation of the 2013-2018 PAFITs is a grouping of the FMU. The members are invited to consult the various documents and submit their comments, if any.

12. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2020

The animator submits a proposed schedule for the TGIRT meetings in 2020. For the Nemaska TGIRT, three meetings are scheduled for February 12, June 10 and December 2. This is satisfactory for the members present. The animator suggests beginning the meetings at 1:30 PM instead of 1:00 PM to give time to set up the material for the meeting. The members present agree.

13. 2019-2020 schedule of seminars of the Canadian Forest Service

The EIJBRG observer had asked to add this item to the agenda. Her absence on the telephone having been noticed, the item is not discussed.

14. Miscellaneous

a. Regional technical committee on the access to the territory

The animator mentions the presentation by Mrs. Sonia Légaré regarding the strategy anticipated for the reestablishment of the woodland caribou habitat and the implementation of a regional technical committee for the development of a road management plan. The committee was put on hold during this series of meetings but during the Matagami TGIRT meeting last week, the delegates asked to reactivate this committee. A delegate asks if this committee will also discuss the snowmobile trails. This is not planned at this time but it can be added if the delegates wish to do so. At the request of the animator, Mr. Wayne Cheezo expresses his interest for the committee but in addition to this committee, the CNG must name representatives for certain committees in the next few months. Therefore, he wants to wait before committing to the regional technical committee. Meanwhile, the animator proposes to keep him informed of the progress of the work by sending him any communication that will be forwarded to the members of the committee.

15. Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 3:30 PM.

On a motion by Mr. Wayne Cheezo, duly seconded by Mr. Matthiew Tanoush, it is unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

ACRONYMS

FHVC	:	Forest with a high conservation value
EIJBRG	:	Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government
MFFP	:	Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
PAFIO	:	Operational Plan for the Integrated Forest Management
PAFIT	:	Tactical Plan for the Integrated Forest Management
RADF	:	Sustainable Forest Management Regulation
SDBJ	:	James Bay Development Corporation
TGIRT	:	Integrated Land and Resources Management Panel