



The Board's Vision: A healthy and diverse aquatic ecosystem for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mackenzie River Basin Board Secretariat

Mackenzie River Basin Board Meeting No. 61

Date: November 12, 2019

Teleconference

Attendees

Board Members and Alternates:

Nadine Stiller	Chair	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Brian Yee	Government Member	Alberta
Carmen de la Chevrotière	Government Alternate	Alberta
Vera Nicholson	Indigenous Member	British Columbia
Lynn Kriwoken	Government Member	British Columbia
Ted Zimmerman	Government Member	British Columbia
Leon Andrew	Indigenous Member	Northwest Territories
Meghan Beveridge	Alternate Member	Northwest Territories
Joseph Tsannie	Indigenous Member	Saskatchewan
John Fahlman	Government Member	Saskatchewan
Corrine Porter	Indigenous Member	Yukon
Heather Jirousek	Government Member	Yukon
Patrick Cherneski	Alternate Member	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Nicholas Mitchell	Alternate Member	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

Secretariat:

Paula Siwik	Environment and Climate Change Canada
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61.1 – Welcome

Goal 9. MRBB affairs are administered effectively.

61.2 - Membership (information)

Health Canada has stepped away from the board. N Stiller has extended an invitation to Parks Canada Agency to attend the meeting on December 4, 2019. Parks Canada Agency has indicated interest. L Kriwoken introduced Ted Zimmerman who will be assuming the role as the BC member of the board, effective April 1, 2020. There is a process ongoing to identify a new Indigenous member for the province of British Columbia as V Nicholson will retire in the near future. C de la Chevrotière will remain the alternate board member for the province of Alberta and a new Alberta board member will be identified in the future. The process to identify an Indigenous board member from Alberta is ongoing.

61.3 Approval of Minutes, MRBB Meeting 60 (decision)

There are further additions and corrections to the draft minutes for meeting #60. An updated version and a track changes version will be circulated before the December meeting.

Decision: a track changes version of meeting minutes for meeting #60 and board meetings from this point onward will be circulated to members for their information

61.4 Action Items not Addressed Elsewhere in Meeting 61 or 62 (information / discussion)

Action items were reviewed. An updated action item table will be circulated for the December meeting.

Decision: Additional detail or context will be included in the action item table.

Goal 7. Ministers, Aboriginal leaders and appropriate staff of jurisdictions are informed of and engaged in MRBB activities

61.5 Annual Report Update (information)

Publication of the 2017-2019 report is delayed as the Chief Financial Officer for Environment and Climate Change Canada is required to approve the 2018-19 final statements before they can be released. P Siwik anticipates receiving confirmation of approval in December which would mean the 2017-19 final report could be printed in January.

Goal 2: Investigate matters concerning the ecological health of the whole basin

61.6 Science/Technical Committee Update (information)

The water quality task team has members from every jurisdiction, and has met once by teleconference. Task team representatives from AB and NT are leading the group and have been tasked with developing a mission and vision statement. Members of the task team will meet with the Traditional Knowledge and Strengthening Partnerships committee at the December 3 face to face meeting.

Goal 6. Encourage the development and implementation of bilateral water management agreements

61.7 Bilateral Water Management Updates (Round Table)

SK: J Fahlman shared that lawyers had reviewed the AB/SK draft agreement. They inquired as to the size of the appendices and whether some items covered in the appendices were better incorporated into the main agreement. The SK member has communicated with the members from AB and NT. A SK technical team reviewed the documents in October and that feedback will be shared with members from AB and NT.

NT: The AB/NT annual report is in its final stages. YK First Nations are interested in signing the revised NT/YK agreement. YK and NT are due for a bi-lateral meeting and one idea is to hold it in Old Crow.

AB: Nothing to add to the AB/NT update. Nothing to add to the AB/SK update. BC/AB renewed discussions on a bi-lateral agreement and work on an agreement in principal is in progress.

BC: BC and NT had a meeting in April and have finalized a terms of reference. A work plan based on current agreements has been drafted. BC/AB have resumed discussions. BC is mindful of the Wood Buffalo Environmental Flow Needs working group and the need to align for efficiencies.

YK: BC/YK had a face-to-face BMC meeting on October 17th in Lower Post, B.C.

A draft summary of the first bilateral management committee meeting with the province of BC is almost complete. A technical committee being established to address the work plan. Other activities are included with jurisdictional updates above.

J Tsannie: Clean-up of the Gunnar Uranium mine continues. The province of Saskatchewan is leading and funding the work. Caribou migration should begin soon. The effects of climate change and forest fires plus other stresses continue to impact the caribou population.

Goal 9. MRBB affairs are administered effectively.

61.8 Administrative Items (Information)

Website changes (advice and information)

P Siwik would like to make some change to the public face of the MRBB website. N Stiller asked for clarification on small sum expenditures. L Kriwoken stated that there is not pre established threshold for this type of expense. The board does approve a lump sum for administrative work annually.

Decision: P Siwik will budget for small sum items when she prepares the 2020-21 budget forecast.

Decision: P Siwik will review new or unexpected small sum items with the chair and, pending approval, proceed with expenditures unless item is deemed necessary to refer to the board for discussion.

Social media (for consideration)

N Stiller proposed the possibility of social media accounts for the Mackenzie River Basin Board. The accounts would not generate new posts but would repost items from the basin. This item will be brought forward and discussed at the next meeting.

Commitment involved with being a board member (information)

P Siwik shared a draft document that outlines the commitment involved with being a board member and asked for feedback on content. The document was drafted with recruitment and orientation of new members in mind. L Kriwoken recommended revising the focus with a specific audience in mind and suggested removing text that simply paraphrased the agreement.

MRBB Final Statements for 2018-19 – update

As noted in the 2017-19 annual report update, the process to get the 2018-19 financial statement approved by the Chief Financial Officer is ongoing.

MRBB Financial update for 2019-20

P Siwik presented an overview of expenditures and planned spending to date. Some jurisdictional contributions have been released to the MRBB account. The board is projected to have a surplus of approximately \$400,000 at the end of the 2019/20 FY. (note: money committed in multi-year contracts is not included in the surplus estimate).

Decision: Financial updates will be streamlined and only include necessary details.

MRBB Budget for 2020-21

Discussion about the MRBB budget for 2020-21 will be deferred pending the outcome of the Strategic Review workshop.

Review of proposals for Indigenous member engagement investments

None were brought forward at this time.

61.9 Meeting 62 (Information)

The board will receive a draft of the Strategic and Operational Review report from the consultants on November 21, 2019. The Strategic and Operational review team have developed a full day workshop based on report recommendation for December 5. The intent is to facilitate a discussion on priorities and action items for the short, medium and long term.

61.10 Round Table

Overall, members were looking forward to the meeting and discussion in Edmonton. L Kriowken encouraged everyone to take the time to review the draft Strategic and Operational review document when it is shared. Unfortunately J Tsannie will not be able to attend the face to face as he has been asked to attend different meetings. P Siwik reminded members about the Tracking Change event on December 3, 2019 at the University of Alberta.

Goal 1: Evaluate the health of the whole basin

Goal 2: Investigate matters concerning the ecological health of the whole basin

Goal 3: Advocate for the maintenance and improvement of the ecological health of the whole basin

Goal 4. Educate the public, share information, and learn from others about matters concerning the ecological health of the whole basin

Goal 5. Support and facilitate the increased participation of Aboriginal Peoples in MRBB activities

Goal 6. Encourage the development and implementation of bilateral water management agreements

Goal 7. Ministers, Aboriginal leaders and appropriate staff of jurisdictions are informed of and engaged in MRBB activities

Goal 8. Information, knowledge and research are shared among jurisdictions – written reports

Goal 9. MRBB affairs are administered effectively.