



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. 63

Date: April 21, 2020; 10:00 am to 1 pm MDST
Teleconference

Attendees

Board Members and Alternates:

Meghan Beveridge	Alternate Member	Northwest Territories
Leon Andrew	Indigenous Member	Northwest Territories
Carmen de la Chevrotière	Alternate Member	Alberta
Andrew Wilson	Interim Government Member	Alberta
Lana Lowe	Indigenous Member	British Columbia
Ted Zimmerman	Government Member	British Columbia
Emma Seward	Alternate Member	Yukon
Nadine Stiller	Government Member	ECCC
Patrick Cherneski	Alternate Member	ECCC
Joseph Tsannie	Indigenous Member	Saskatchewan
Jonah Mitchell	Government Member	Parks Canada Agency

Secretariat:

Paula Siwik	Executive Director	ECCC
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63.1 – Meeting #63 of the Mackenzie River Basin Board was called to order at 10:00 MDST. There was quorum. Members reviewed the agenda and no additions or amendments were proposed.

Decision: *Agenda was approved.*

63.2 - Membership (Information) (Goal 9)

- New members to the board include L. Lowe (BC Indigenous Member) and J. Mitchell (Parks Canada Agency).
- AB Government Member currently vacant. A. Wilson is interim supporting manager, but has not been appointed to the Board by Minister. The process to appoint is waiting until re-organization at AEP is complete.

63.3 Approval of Minutes (Decision) (Goal 9)

- Minutes from Meeting #60 and #61 were discussed collectively.
- Additional minor edits to the AB/NWT bilateral update (meeting #61) were proposed; no concerns from other members to the suggested amendments

- Members were reminded that by approving the minutes, they are also agreeing to have the streamlined version posted on the public face of the website

Decision: approve minutes from meeting #60 and #61 with agreed to changes in # 61 in reference to the bilateral updates (C. de la Chevrotière; T. Zimmerman; passed)

- Meeting #62 – December 4 notes and workshop summary circulated; Members asked for more time to review Dec 5 workshop report.
- Minor edits for the minutes of the December 4 portion of Meeting #62 will be shared with the Secretariat.

Decision: approve minutes from meeting #62 pending edits outlined above and minor edits to be shared with Secretariat. (T. Zimmerman; C. de la Chevrotière; passed)

63.4 Action Items not Addressed Elsewhere in Meeting 63 or 64

- Action items 57.6-1 and 57.6-2 will be considered “closed” as follow up actions from the Strategic Review will address the intent behind these items.

63.5 Annual Report Update (Information) (Goal 9 and 7)

- The 2017-19 annual report has been posted on the website.
- P. Siwik has started editing the text for the 2019-2020 Annual Report.

63.6 Changes to the MRBB website (Goal 4)

- P. Siwik noted that the website now has a “Resources” section. It contains the material formerly found in the library as well as the agency report, approved meeting minutes (starting with meeting #60) and “Basin Wide Initiatives”.
- The ESRI story map developed in 2019 is being revisited. Limitations on the ECCC account meant it could not be shared publically. Parks Canada has agreed to host the story map pending an update (in progress) and review.

63.7 Round Table and Bilateral Water Management Updates (Goal 6)

- E. Seward: YK and NWT are working to update the 2002 agreement for the Peel basin and an agreement for the Liard basin; consultations and meetings were set to begin in March/April but now stalled due to Covid 19 pandemic. An information package will be sent out and further meetings scheduled when it is possible to do so.
- M. Beveridge: The government of NWT is also ready to initiate consultations when it is possible to do so. NWT and the province of SK plan to meet in 2020 but have not had the opportunity to date. The annual report for the AB-NWT bilateral agreement is ready for Ministerial approval; anticipate release to the public in the next few months; a BMC meeting is anticipated for the spring A BMC meeting with BC is being planned for the spring to approve a work plan for 2020/21.
- L. Andrew: Nothing to add to the update from M. Beveridge. Noted that the Indigenous representative on the AB-NWT bilateral water management committee shares updates. Things are quiet at the moment.
- C. de la Chevrotière: Nothing to add to the bilateral water management agreement update that M. Beveridge provided. MRBB Indigenous Board member selection is progressing and a member

has been put forward from the Treaty 8 table. Work to have the appointment confirmed by the Minister is ongoing. AB and SK continue work on a bilateral water management agreement, and has set up teams to examine draft technical appendices. An agreement in principal has been reached between AB and BC. Engagement and consultation plans have had to change as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.

- T. Zimmerman: Implementation of the BC-YK agreement continues as scheduled. The individual assigned to manage the NWT-BC agreement has been reassigned to other work because of the Covid 19 pandemic, so work on that file has been delayed. Waiting for DM endorsement of the BC-AB agreement in principal.
- L. Lowe: Planning to have a hand off meeting with V. Nicholson once Covid 19 restrictions have been eased. Everyone busy with emergency planning and supporting those in self-isolation.
- J. Tsannie: Current focus is the pandemic and response to Covid 19.

63.8 Administrative Items (Information) (Goal 9)

- Priorities for the Secretariat: P Siwik shared a document that outlines the high-level priorities for the Secretariat in the short/medium/long term. The chair reviews the document periodically. The document is a source of information to support future discussion around the role of the Secretariat.
- MRBB Financial update for 2019-20: The board continues to have a planned surplus for SOAER work. Expenditures for most expense categories were in line with past years.
- MRBB budget for 2020-21: A proposed budget for 2020/21 was shared and will be tabled for revision/ approval at the May meeting. P. Siwik followed past practises. Numbers in italics reflect potential expenditures.
- Clarification on expenditures: some guidance on expectations of board members about when ED to seek approval on expenses would be helpful. Once the budget is approved, is that permission to spend up to that amount or can the ED/chair proceed with board business provided it is reasonable.
- The projected budgets for 2021/22 and 2022/23 includes additional funds for the SOAER. The current SOAER product will be incomplete and it is expected that the board will want to continue its development and improvement.

63.9 Strategic and Operational Review – final report and next steps (Goal 9)

- Kumu map: P. Siwik showed an example of a Kumu map that linked the recommendations and themes from the December 5 workshop. Elements that had connections to multiple recommendations included “Strategic Plan”, “Roles and Responsibilities of the Secretariat”, “Communications Plan”.
- Table of recommendations: P. Siwik shared a table that included the draft and final recommendations from the final Strategic and Operational report.
- Communication Committee: P. Siwik tabled a proposal to re-establish a communications committee. This item will be discussed at fall meeting.

63. 10 Final Roundtable

- E. Seward: YK is seeking to reappoint Corrine Porter as the YK Indigenous Member.
- J. Mitchell: Keeping a close eye on break up on Athabasca and Peace Rivers. There is a moderate potential for some flooding on the Athabasca River.
- C. de la Chevrotière shared that rivers.alberta.ca (website) and AB Rivers (app) provide current information and notification on flooding in Alberta.
- N. Stiller closed the meeting by wishing everyone good health.

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.