



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. 69

Date: October 6 2021

Attendees

Nadine Stiller (chair)	Government Member	ECCC
Nicholas Mitchell	Alternate Member	CIRNAC
Carmen de la Chevrotière	Alternate Member	Alberta
Andrew Wilson	Government Member	Alberta
Corrine Porter	Indigenous Member	Yukon
Ted Zimmerman	Government Member	British Columbia
John Fahlman	Government Member	Saskatchewan
Jonah Mitchell	Government Member	Parks Canada Agency
Heather Jirousek	Government Member	Yukon
Ella Parker	Alternate Member	Yukon
Leon Andrew	Indigenous Member	Northwest Territories
Vice Chief Tsannie	Indigenous Member	Saskatchewan
Nathen Richea	Alternate Member	Northwest Territories

Secretariat

Paula Siwik	Executive Director	ECCC
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Guests

Sharon Reedyk	ECCC
Bradley Summerfield	ECCC
Meghan Beveridge	Northwest Territories Government

69.1 – Welcome and Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda for October 6, 2021 (N. Richea; A. Wilson; passed)

69.2 - Membership (Goal 9)

- J. MacDonald, member for NWT, has changed departments. The government of Northwest Territories will appoint a new member.
- E. Seward, alternate for Yukon, is on an assignment. E. Parker will sit as the interim alternate member for Yukon.
- A. Wilson has been officially appointed as the government member for the province of Alberta

69.3 Approval of Minutes (Goal 9)

Motion to approve the minutes for meeting 67 (H. Jirousek; N. Richea; passed)

Motion to approve the minutes for meeting 68 (H. Jirousek; N. Richea; passed)

69.4 Action Items not Addressed Elsewhere in Meeting 69 (Goal 9)

- Notification Summary: J Flesch started as a casual with ECCC in late September as temporary support to the Secretariat.
- Copy of published Tracking Change articles to MRBB site: Paula working with Tracey H. on smooth way to transfer.
- The contract with the Tracking Change program to enhance the Indigenous Knowledge on the SOAER is close to being finalized.

69.5 State of the Aquatic Ecosystem Report (Goal 2 and 4)

- B. Summerfield shared a presentation that summarized 1) survey feedback on Phase 1 SOAER process and Phase 2 planning from committee members, and, 2) initial committee input and planning on Phase 2 of the SOAER.
- JSC members felt very respected by fellow committee members, chair and ED and free to express themselves. Some agreement that Committee members had enough time and resources to participate effectively. Majority of committee members are looking forward to Phase 2 and feel that their participation will be supported.
- The SOAER JSC has expressed an interest to continue meeting as a JSC. There is a strong desire to meet in person when reasonable to do so. Filling Data Gaps was highlighted as the biggest priority for Phase 2 followed by Adding to and enhancing IK, Spatial products (i.e. Maps), and validating current indicators and adding new ones.
- Feedback also noted that Phase 2 should revisit the discussion around detailed location assessments.
- Detailed location assessments: The original statement of work for the contract included place based analyses. One example was prepared that included detailed Indigenous Knowledge and science. Desire to revive that discussion and explore this component further in Phase 2.
- There will be further opportunity for detailed discussion on Phase 2 of the SOAER.

69.6 Water Quality Task Team update (Goal 2)

- S. Reedyk shared an update on the work of the task team and the water quality contracts funded under the AB NWT BMC implementation fund.
- Objectives and triggers are site specific but the playbook on recommended approaches and analyses will provide a common foundation.
- The Water Quality Task Team has drafted a letter, addressed to the director of ECCC Science and Technology Branch, on the impact of water quality monitoring suspensions.

Motion: Send the water quality sampling suspension letter to the director of the ECCC Science and Technology Branch after edits have been adopted, and letter circulated for final review (A. Wilson; T. Zimmerman; passed)

69.7 Interim Strategic Plan (Goal 9)

- The MRBB was focussed on the SOAER and the Strategic and Operational Review. Developing a two-year interim strategic plan is an intentional step that sets the MRBB up to go forward.
- Review of first draft in June resulted in good discussion. The MRBB should consider the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP), and include actions to advance reconciliation.
- An interim strategic plan is an opportunity to refocus and confirm the direction and priorities of the MRBB. The pieces in this interim plan will lay the ground work for a comprehensive 5 year plan to be developed in 2023.
- The plan seems achievable. Need to consider how the federal UNDRIP legislation and proposed Canada Water Agency plays into our work. There are fundamental questions around structure and function.
- Revised text better frames the declaration and the need to advocate. The revised plan includes a commitment to revisit the MRBB goals through the lens of reconciliation.
- The MRBB approaches co-management from one perspective. Outside of the MRBB table, provinces and territories manage water.
- CIRNAC as an entity has tools that could assist with this discussion. CIRNAC led the UNDRIP legislation process. Reconciliation is a complex subject with many avenues to explore. CIRNAC has focussed on implementing the 94 calls to action and abiding by the 10 Principles Respecting Canada's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples. As an example, all levels of government could benefit cultural competency training (TRC Recommendation 57). CIRNAC could support that work, and has data that could support updates to the SOAER and the annual report.
- The world is not new but climate change could change how we live in it. It is important to watch over the land and water and need to be cautious in approach. We need to build good relationships. This is a good thing for Canada and everyone.
- Members asked to consider the revised 2 year interim strategic plan and come prepared to vote on a motion at the November meeting.

69.8 Roles and Responsibility – Secretariat, and Committee Champion, Chair and Member (Goal 9)

- The Strategic and Operational Review (SOR) noted that a strong Secretariat is key to the success of the MRBB. Clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the Secretariat is part of the current strategic planning exercise.
- Members will need to be able to point back to “why” before asking for resources. Need to frame the logic and sequence to the pieces
- It may be possible to leverage work funded through various bilateral agreements. The technical component of the interim strategic plan is significant. The Secretariat role could evolve to adopt a project management role.
- The MRBB is a great venue to work collaboratively on multi jurisdictional matters. The work of the MRBB is important and the financial contribution aspect is an important discussion. There may be mechanisms to support aspects under some bilateral agreements.
- There will likely be opportunities to advance some work through the Canada Water Agency. The MRBB may need to consider how to position itself in the forming stage.

69.9 Strategic and Operational Review (Goal 9)

- The draft response to the Strategic and Operational Review was shared at the June meeting but has not yet been discussed or reviewed by MRBB members.
- Propose that MRBB members use Tables in the document to track progress while the MRBB reviews the body of the text.

69.10 Administrative Items (Goal 9)

2020-21 Annual Report

- Draft shared for final review.
- The report will not be sent to Ministers until ECCC finance approvals are complete (ongoing)

25th anniversary plans – update/proposals for further consideration and discussion

- Postage Stamp application was not successful.
- MRBB will consider collaborating with photo contests hosted by MRBB member organizations.
- Propose formation of a map task team to guide work and ensure technical support during the development of legacy maps
- Will investigate the possibility of a meeting at a key location in the basin.

Map Task Team

- New maps will include clear documentation to support future use.
- A task team is needed to: i) develop the rationale to define the boundaries of the MRBB sub-basin planning units; ii) develop a naming convention for those units; iii) identify options for mapping tools that could support presenting spatial information for the SOAER and for the MRBB website; and iv) develop a list of key base maps documenting natural and anthropogenic features of the Mackenzie River Basin in support of the SOAER and the MRBB website.

MRBB Financial update for 2020-21

- On track to spend approved budget.

Agency report reminder

- Please send agency reports as they will be included in the November meeting.

Virtual Water Panel

- On October 14, 2021, P. Siwik will be part of a virtual University of Ottawa panel; *The State of Regional Water Governance: Watershed Management*

69.11 Round Table Updates (Goal 6)

- MRBB members were invited to share updates. Members opted to defer to the November meeting.

69.12 November meeting (Goal 9)

- Review of items for discussion and decision at meeting #70

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.**