



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. 74

December 5, 2022

Virtual Meeting

10:00 am to 1:30 pm PST; 11:00 am to 2:30 pm MST; 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm CST

Attendees

Members

Corrine Porter	Indigenous Member	Yukon
Heather Jirousek	Government Member	Yukon
Amelie Janin	Government Alternate	Yukon
Julian Kanigan	Government Member	Northwest Territories
Andrew Wilson	Government Member	Alberta
Carmen de la Chevrotiere	Government Alternate	Alberta
Ted Zimmerman	Government Member	British Columbia
Nadine Stiller	Government Member	ECCC
Patrick Cherneski	Government Alternate	ECCC
Nick Mitchell	Government Member	CIRNAC
Vice Chief Joseph Tsannie	Indigenous Member	Saskatchewan
Thon Phommavong	Government Member	Saskatchewan

Guests

Paul MacDonald		ECCC
Sarah Bartnik	Water Quality Task Team	ECCC
Meghan Beveridge		Northwest Territories
Morna Hussey		Alberta
Corie White		Saskatchewan

Secretariat

Paula Siwik	MRBB Secretariat	ECCC
-------------	------------------	------

74.1 Welcome Roundtable

- P. MacDonald is a candidate in the ECCC Indigenous Director Development program and is here to observe the meeting. C. White is the ED of the Water and Science Branch for the Saskatchewan water Security Agency and will support the Saskatchewan MRBB member going forward.

74.2 Agenda and Membership

Motion to approve the agenda for Meeting 74 with noted change in order (T. Zimmerman, A. Wilson; passed)

74.3 Approval of Minutes

i. Meeting #72

- Comments received to date have been incorporated. Members asked for additional review time.
- Meeting 73 draft minutes are in progress.

74.4 Meeting 74 Activity Table

- There are only minor updates.

74.5 Water Quality Task Team Update

- S. Bartnik updated MRBB members on the work of the water quality task team and proposed that the team meet in person in order to finalize advice and guidance on trend analyses. This team has yet to meet in person.
- Members supported the proposed in person meeting.

74.6 Agency Reports

i. 2022 Agency report highlights

Yukon

- The highlight in 2022 was the signing of the 2 new Bilateral Agreements between the Governments of Yukon and Northwest Territories: 1) an update to the 2002 agreement for the Peel River, 2) an agreement for the Liard River.
- A contract has been signed with Joe Copper Jack so that the Land and Peoples Relationship Model can support the BMC and learning plan development for the Liard River.
- Yukon Environment staff visited Alberta government offices to tour their flood forecast office. Flood mapping is a high priority activity for the Yukon as there are 14 high risk communities.
- The Yukon State of Environment interim report was recently tabled. Records at some sites have been kept from the time of the goldrush. Breakup is occurring earlier than in the past.
- Regional land use planning is ongoing.
- Science/Monitoring: have installed 2 new monitoring wells in collaboration with Dena Kayeh Institute. The information will support the delineation and mapping of aquifers in the Watson Lake area. Aquifer mapping for the rest of the territory is under development.
- This is the highest snowpack ever recorded for both the Peel and Liard basin.
- Yukon government has an online water data catalogue that also includes historical snow survey data. Work continues to make more data available online.
- Waterline is an online public registry that stores and shares information on water licencing.
- Major Projects: BMC Minerals is seeking authorization for construction of a mine.

- C. Porter: Nothing to add at this time.

British Columbia

- The Land, Water Resource Stewardship Ministry is a new ministry. The previous organizational structure was complicated. This Ministry hopes to simplify and streamline work and messaging about water and salmon.
- The new Ministry will become the lead for water policy and answer to all matters related to water including source water protection and drinking water (previously under the prevue of Ministry of Health).
- A watershed security strategy for B.C. is under development. It will support a localized approach to watershed governance.
- There are over 200 nations in B.C. Legislation currently confers accountability for water to the crown. Work is underway to consider how to vest that within First Nations.
- First Nation delegates are involved in the work; co-development mindset.
- Looking for a framework to support sharing of histories and different knowledges. Plan to advance work in an ethical space environment. An intentions paper and “What We Heard” document was published last week. Hoping to complete this work in 2023 and then fund it in 2024.
- 2022 was a drought year with the driest season on record going into October. Water levels are dire for northeast part of the province.

Northwest Territories

- Signing the updated BWMA agreements was a great moment for both jurisdictions.
- 2022 includes the biggest flood that has been recorded at Hay River. The flood waters rose at night and people were caught unaware.
- The government of NWT does not currently have sufficient expertise and resources to adequately address flood forecasting needs.
- The government of NWT is working with NRCan and CIRNAC to create updated inundation maps, starting with Hay River, Fort Simpson and Aklavik, and later flood hazard maps and flood risk maps.
- The government of NWT last developed designated flood maps in the 1980’s. The government of NWT would appreciate information on this topic from other jurisdictions.
- There is strong interest from communities to overlay permafrost and flow information towards creating community hazard maps. This could support community planning and climate change adaptation. Examples of hazard mapping guidelines, linked to a national adaptation strategy, would be helpful.
- Interested in engaging with Canada on a bilateral action plan and would like to see the north considered in national work.
- There is a lot of interest and concern around the development of regulations for treated oil sand effluent release.
- Grateful for the partnership and lines of communication supported by this forum.

Alberta

- Deferred to January meeting as there was not enough time to cover all agenda items.

Saskatchewan

- Anticipate that the BWMA be complete within the next 2 years. Meetings are scheduled with both the governments of NWT and AB.
- The Saskatchewan Water Security Agency is undergoing a red tape reduction review.
- Government of Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy is heavily focussed on an agricultural water management framework and also includes a wetland policy and mitigation policy. This is a big undertaking that includes policy development, test projects, and partnerships.
- C. White: The approach is to manage and mitigate impacts related to Water Quality and Water Quantity, as well as habitat, soil health and greenhouse gasses. Planning to put in place a suite of tools that support management and mitigation.
- Comments and input can be shared through the webpage.
- Science and Monitoring: The government of Saskatchewan is putting effort towards making data available to the public in a timely fashion. Saskatchewan follows International Standards, and automated processes have reduced error which means there is increased confidence in sharing data publicly as soon as it is available.
- Water Security Agency has formed an informatics group and will use geomatics to link to WQ data; hope to display data in graphical formats.
- VC Tsannie: no updates at this time.

ECCC

- ECCC report includes information on Wood Buffalo National Park Action Plan, routine water quality monitoring and the national hydrometric network.
- The Wood Buffalo National Park Action Plan action plan includes discussions around ice jam/damming, and state of the art on co-developed hydrometric model.
- The DG for Water Sciences and Technology, ECCC, met with PPWB members to discuss ongoing concerns about monitoring in case of extreme circumstances. The DG assured PPWB members that she has raised the issue of designating water quality monitoring as a critical service. She is open to attending a future MRBB meeting.
- Still waiting on a decision about the Canada Water Agency.

CIRNAC

- This report is an update on the Crown Indigenous Relations work. It does not include the work being undertaken by Northern Affairs Canada.
- The report is a high-level summary that includes links and key dates.
- Includes information on the United National Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, amendments to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, the Arctic and Northern Policy Framework and CIRNACs Policy on Scientific and Indigenous Knowledge Integrity.
- The science section includes information on the Contaminated Sites Program and initiatives linked to climate change.

ii. Agency Report Discussion

- This was deferred to a future meeting.

74.7 Liard BMC and the Land and Peoples Relationship Model

- J. Copper Jack has thirty years' experience in leadership and management roles with the Yukon First Nations at the local and regional levels. This includes being elected

Chief for two different Yukon First Nations and serving as Vice-Chairman to the Council for Yukon Indians for three consecutive terms.

- The Land and Peoples Model that Joe developed is focused on rebuilding respect and healthy relationships and respect between land and peoples.
- J. Copper Jack is working with the Bilateral Management Committees for the Liard River (Yukon, Northwest Territories and British Columbia) to support the development of a learning plan.
- The Liard River moves through Yukon, British Columbia and Northwest Territories and a trilateral approach to work on the Liard River was agreed to in May 2022.
- The Liard River was classified as a class 2 river. Class 2 rivers require a learning plan under the risk-informed management (RIM) framework. In this context a learning plan is considered to be a framework or process that enables the use of various types of knowledge to protect a basin.
- The Land and Peoples Relationship Model is a knowledge tool that builds on Long Ago Peoples Way. It is based on three laws of respect, care, and share. It includes two tools: No Voice and Knowledge Stream Tree.
- Respect = Relationship
- Care = Stewardship
- Share = Collaboration and passing on the knowledge
- The point at which the three laws overlap is a sacred space.
- Indigenous Knowledge laws are applied internally first and then applied outwards.
- The model attempts to rebuild healthy relationships and respect between land and people, and between peoples, so that no one knowledge group is superior to the other.
- The No Voice perspective considers all dwellers of the earth, the spirit of our grandparents and the spirit of future generations. The No Voice contribution is a critical factor in decision making.
- Knowledge Stream Tree is a story of how two knowledge systems and worldviews can function collaboratively.
- “Crossings” are places where there are points of agreement or concordance between different knowledge systems. Braiding various world views might be harmful to Indigenous Peoples. Need to maintain respective cultures and world views.
- Rules of engagement: a) show respect for each other, affected parties, the land and water.
- b) feel as much as you think; use all the senses, including spirituality, all the time.
- c) listen to understand what is being said – which is different than listening to respond
- d) clarify what you say and hear
- e) have patience
- The process is as important as the result. Indigenous Knowledge needs to be merged into the entire planning and implementation process. Relationships create the framework for healthy relationships between land and peoples.
- ITK Holder Circle is the critical link between IK and WS throughout the planning process.
- Prior consent agreements outline consent to share knowledge with a specific project approval for initial draft or “what we heard” to make sure citing is accurate, and then separate approval for final document.

- The members of the Yukon-B.C. and B.C.-N.W.T. BMCs are the planning body for this initiative and adopt a consensus decision-making process. Support staff have bi-weekly meetings to plan steps to move the project ahead.
- Contracts use a licensing condition rather than ownership condition to address Intellectual Property clauses, and include UNDRIP and OCAP principles around ownership, access and possession. Knowledge is not a deliverable.
- The table of experts should remain neutral. They will decide whether to use an IK solution or a science solution for each question. Science has a lot to do with respect, care, and share of No Voice.
- Simple, inclusive and neutral; if there is a leaning then it leans towards the land. Decisions can dovetail with other projects on the land. Water is key because water is life.
- Water is born from glaciers. Yukon are headwaters people and responsible for people downstream. We need to show respect for people who live by the oceans.
- Everything has a water component, and those components together share the bigger picture. Science is also concerned with the bigger picture. We can develop a picture of ongoing changes through monitoring.

74.8 Look Ahead

- Discussion on future meetings was deferred.

Mackenzie River Basin Board Meeting No. 74 (continued)

January 25, 2023

Attendees

Andrew Wilson	Government Member	Alberta
Carmen de la Chevrotiere	Government Alternate	Alberta
Ted Zimmerman	Government Member	British Columbia
Nadine Stiller	Government Member	ECCC
Nick Mitchell	Government Member	CIRNAC
Thon Phommavong	Government Member	Saskatchewan
Laurie Wein	Government Member	PAC
Corrine Porter	Indigenous Member	Yukon
Amelie Janin	Government Alternate	Yukon

Guests

Morna Hussey	Alberta
Meghan Beveridge	Northwest Territories

Secretariat

Paula Siwik	MRBB Secretariat	ECCC
-------------	------------------	------

74b.1 Welcome Roundtable

74b.2 Agenda

Motion to approve agenda for part 2 of Meeting 74. (A. Wilson; A. Janin; passed)

74b.3 Approval of Minutes

ii. Meeting #72

Motion to approve minutes from Meeting 72. (T. Zimmerman; A. Wilson; passed)

74b.4 Water Quality Task Team Meeting

i. Motion to approve face-to-face meeting.

Motion to approve a face-to-face meeting for the WQTT and up to \$2300.00 for Secretariat and meeting infrastructure expenses. (T. Zimmerman; T. Phommavong; passed)

ii. Comments/feedback on draft face-to-face meeting template

- P. Siwik drafted a template that includes information we hope will support each jurisdiction's travel requests. Please send comments and suggestions on the template to Paula by February 15.
- P. Siwik will circulate information using this template prior to each in-person meeting to support travel requests.

74b.5 Agency Reports (cont'd)

i. Alberta

- The report prepared by the Government of Alberta includes the entire province as one report as it is developed for both MRBB and PPWB. The report highlights quite a few programs including regulatory transformation and information accessibility.
- The Alberta Energy Regulator posts reports that include information on reported incidents.
- The Lower Athabasca Regional Plan review was launched in August 2022.
- There is information in the report on work on tailings management including links to new publicly available information. There is a selenium management review focussed on coal mining areas.
- The government of Alberta recently released a surface water allocation directive that includes guidance for how much water can be allocated in areas of the province without a current regional plan.
- Major Initiatives includes a project from Alberta Innovates for the treatment of oil sands affected wastewater.
- The Major Projects section includes a list of projects and links to information.
- Brief discussion on the format and content of agency reports. Prior boards had developed a standardized approach to agency reports. The template could be re-evaluated. Need an approach that allows flexibility. This topic and a few options will be included on a future meeting.

74b.6 Look Ahead

Motion: MRBB will formally move to one in person meeting per year augmented by virtual meetings. In 2023 the MRBB will meet in person in the fall (T. Zimmerman; T. Phommavong; passed).

74b.7 Meeting Close

- 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.**