



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. 75 Summary

Date: May 11 2023

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

Ted Zimmerman	Government Member	British Columbia
Nadine Stiller	Government Member	ECCC
Amelie Janin	Government Alternate	Yukon
Patrick Cherneski	Government Alternate	ECCC
Laurie Wein	Government Alternate	Parks Canada
Nick Mitchell	Government Alternate	CIRNAC
Morna Hussey	Government Member	Alberta
Thon Phommavong	Government Member	Saskatchewan
Lana Lowe	Indigenous Member	British Columbia
Julian Kanigan	Government Member	Northwest Territories

Secretariat

Paula Siwik	MRBB Secretariat	ECCC
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Guest

Meghan Beveridge		Northwest Territories
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75.1 Welcome and Agenda

- Government of Alberta members are here as observers as the writ dropped at the end of April.

Motion to approve the agenda for May 11, 2023. (T. Zimmerman, T. Phommavong; passed)

75.2 Membership

- A new Indigenous member for Yukon has been identified and that the appointment process is underway.
- MRBB members have discussed instituting alternate members. There are some logistical challenges and considerations that should be discussed to ensure all are clear on important details moving forward.

75.3 Approval of Minutes

i. Meeting #73

Motion to approve the minutes for meeting 73 with the minor revisions identified by the Government of Northwest Territories. (J. Kanigan, T. Zimmerman; passed)

ii. Meeting #74

- Send any comments to P. Siwik by May 26.

75.4 Action Items not Addressed Elsewhere in Meeting 75

- The role of champion and an early discussion on ideas and expectations around flood mapping are included on the agenda for meeting 75.

75.5 Updates

i. Video and Knowledge Sharing Series

- ECCC colleagues will attend the June meeting and provide an update.

ii. Websites and Youtube – SOAER and MRBB

- YouTube: The account will house the Knowledge Sharing Series video and the MRBB 25th anniversary video (pending approval).
- Individuals with comments will be encouraged to send an email to the MRBB generic inbox.
- Website: Hiring a casual employee to lead deployment of WordPress version to the new web host.

iii. Water Governance Contract

- Further refined and added clarity to the SOW. Package submitted to procurement and was recently assigned to a procurement officer.

iv. SOP and Secretariat Manual contract

- The contract was completed in April. Secretariat is doing a final review and doing minor revisions to ensure recent decisions/discussions are included.

v. Interchange results

- Interchange candidate is proposed for September 2023 to September 2024.
- Candidate brings experiences in environmental planning (e.g. floods) and project management.

vi. MRBB Committee TORs

- The three active working groups are updating their Terms of Reference (TOR) documents.
- Text will be included in the TORs and SOP document recommending that the chair initiate a review every 3 to 5 years.

vii. Annual Report – Structure and Content

- Draft TOC and background on financial reporting shared as part of Meeting 75 package and will be raised for discussion/decision at June meeting.
- 2022-23 draft text will be circulated for review after discussion in June. Will seek approval of the text at one of the Fall MRBB meetings.

75.6 Finance (information)

- i. 2022-23 fiscal update
- 2022-23 expenditures were less than projected largely due to delays in procurement and staffing.
- ii. Draft 2023-24 budget
- Shared for information and discussion. Motion to approve the 2023-24 budget will be included on the June agenda.

75.7 Role of the Champion of MRBB committees

- MRBB Secretariat met with current committee chairs and discussed what support a champion could provide. The role of a MRBB committee champion could be to provide leadership and support to Committee chair and MRBB Secretariat

In order to achieve this role, the champion will be responsible to:

1. Meet with the committee chair and MRBB Secretariat at least twice per year prior to spring/fall MRBB meetings;
 2. Aid the MRBB Secretariat in the recruitment of a new chair (as required) either with a candidate internal to the champion's organization or by connecting with other MRBB members;
 3. Support discussion of committee-related issues and make motions at MRBB meetings to secure resources for the committee (as required).
- The champion role is a 2-year commitment (at minimum). This will support Secretariat in chair recruitment and support and enhance connection between MRBB committees and MRBB members. This could a) facilitate cross-jurisdictional connections, b) provide committees with the ability to informally weigh options prior to presenting issues to the board, and c) provide continuity should there be vacancies in the MRBB Secretariat.
 - A discussion on the champion role is really a discussion about Secretariat support. A champion could be a strategic voice for the role of the MRBB. Vision will define involvement but there is a need for internal and external support and advocacy. MRBB has a voice and intersects with different interests.
 - MRBB members would need to be clear on topics of collective interest.

75.8 Flood Mapping Session

- This item follows up on the Meeting 74 flood mapping discussion. Purpose is to explore ideas and needs of MRBB members and determine if there is a role for the Secretariat.
- The Federal government has expanded opportunity for flood mapping support and engagement. There is an opportunity for MRBB members to engage.
- The Government of NWT has some interest in further discussion. For example, what are next steps after the flood map has been created. There has also been a shift in

terminology and the Government of NWT would appreciate having access to some expertise.

- Additional background work and discussion required to determine how to approach this to maximize benefits for MRBB members.

75.9 Strategic Planning Session

- The Secretariat will work to recruit someone to facilitate the Strategic Planning and develop an early draft of the plan.
- Key direction: Areas of focus for the SP:
 - Finances – clear statement on how the MRBB intends to use current funds, is there a need to keep a “buffer” aside and, if so, how much
 - Secretariat – workload and expectations; the ongoing FTE commitment required for the SOAER as a website and a living product.
 - Basin wide perspectives – BWMA’s, climate change, the SOAER patterns as another tool to guide MRBB work and discussion
 - Goals – consider the goals through a reconciliation lens (suggest this is a 2024 in person session)
 - Aspirational pieces for the next SP: agreement on what reconciliation means at the MRBB table, drafting of a positional statement on reconciliation, looking for flexibility within the current agreement.

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.