

The Board’s Vision: A healthy and diverse aquatic ecosystem

for the benefit of present and future generations.

**Mackenzie River Basin Board Secretariat**

**Meeting Minutes, Mackenzie River Basin Board Meeting No. 82**

Virtual Meeting

Day 1 January 21 2025

9:00 am to 12:30 pm PST; 10:00 am to 1:30 pm MST; 11:00 pm to 2:30 pm CST

**Attendees**

Cam Lane Government Alternate Alberta

Patrick Cherneski Government Alternate Canada Water Agency

Leon Andrew Indigenous Member Northwest Territories

Julian Kanigan Government Member Northwest Territories

Vice Chief Joseph Tsannie Indigenous Member Saskatchewan

(day 1)

Alden Armstrong Indigenous Member Alberta

Thon Phommavong Government Member Saskatchewan

Heather Jirousek Government Member Yukon

Ted Zimmerman Government Member British Columbia

Jonah Mitchell Government Member Parks Canada Agency

Nicholas Mitchell (day 2) Government Member CIRNAC

**Secretariat**

Paula Siwik MRBB Executive Director

**Guests**

Corinne Kristensen Alberta

Lana Miller (day 1) British Columbia

Ute Holwegar (day 2) Canada Water Agency

Morna Hussey (day 2) Canada Water Agency

**82.1 Welcome Roundtable**

* Corinne Kristensen is the Director of Transboundary Waters within Environment and Protected Areas.  She has been with the department for over 20 years, with experience in environmental assessment, operational policy, and many years of being a statutory decision maker under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Water Act and Public Lands Act.

**82.2** **Agenda**

*Motion to approve the meeting agenda (T Zimmerman, T Phommavong; approved)*

**82.3 Secretariat Update**

1. Secretariat staff update

* J. Cederwall, an Interchange employee from the Government of NWT, joined the MRBB Secretariat in January for a 2 year position.

1. Finance update – FY 2024-25
   * The Canada Water Agency covered some approved expenditures. Planned contracts deferred to 2025-26 as procurement support transitions to new provider. The MRBB is in a good financial position.
2. Activity Table – review
   * Reviewed progress on action items from past meetings.
3. 2023-24 Annual Report Text
   * Members asked to review draft text and send revisions.
4. Meeting 81 Minutes
   * Members supported a streamlined approach to meeting minutes that focuses on action items and decisions. This will reduce administrative burden and improve efficiency.

*Motion: Meeting minutes will shift to a consolidated format that focuses on key outcomes and decisions (T. Zimmerman, C. Lane; approved)*

*Action Item: Secretariat will revise the minutes from Meeting 81 so that they align with the new approach.*

1. Letter of support for Northwest Territory Métis Nation and future requests
   * MRBB members have no concerns with the January 2025 letter sent by the MRBB Secretariat in support of the project proposal submitted by the Northwest Territory Metis Nation. Going forward, the Secretariat should clarify commitments around information sharing, MRBB priorities and outcomes.
2. Orientation Video
   * The orientation video will remain in the members only section of the MRBB website. Members can play it from that location for others or download and share as required noting that updated versions should be sourced from the MRBB website. The MRBB Secretariat will change the date on the title slide when edits are made.

**82.4 WQTT Membership**

* + MRBB members reviewed the discussion about membership on the Water Quality Task Team raised at Meeting 81. MRBB members from the governments of Alberta and Northwest Territories will act as a sounding board for a future proposal.

**82.5 Agency Reports – Part 1**

Note: Agency reports are available on the MRBB website under the Resources section.

2024 Agency report

* + - 1. Alberta
      2. British Columbia
      3. Northwest Territories
      4. Parks Canada – verbal update

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**Draft Agenda, Mackenzie River Basin Board Meeting No. 82**

Day 2 January 22, 2025

Virtual Meeting

9:00 am to 12:30 pm PST; 10:00 am to 1:30 pm MST; 11:00 pm to 2:30 pm CST

**82.6 Welcome**

**82.7 Collaborative Leadership Initiative**

* At Meeting 81, MRBB members committed to continuing on the path of CLI provided it addressed MRBB priorities.
* The CLI team sent an email on January 17, 2025 that included links to an online poll where members could vote on priorities identified at Meeting 81 and meeting dates. Weather related travel delays meant that the session with CIER at Meeting 81 was rushed. MRBB members would like to better articulate priorities.
* The MRBB Secretariat will work with CIER to determine a topic that supports the draft Strategic Plan and MRBB priorities.
* MRBB members highlighted the need for partnerships with organizations such as CIER going forward.

**82.8**  **Alignment of Priorities and** **Resources**

* Preliminary analysis shared for discussion/consideration that could inform development of a business case for a change in funding allocation.
* There was recognition that annual contributions have not changed since 1997. The Parties to the Agreement are not currently in a position to request additional funds for the MRBB. The MRBB Secretariat will continue to advocate for in kind support from the Parties and consider adjusting outcomes for some priorities and tasks.

**82.9 Agency Reports – Part 2**

Note: Agency reports are available on the MRBB website under the Resources section.

* + - 1. Yukon
      2. Saskatchewan – verbal update
      3. CIRNAC – no report
      4. ECCC – The 2024 agency report includes information from ECCC only. The 2025 report will focus on the Canada Water Agency.

**82.10** **Look Ahead**

Meeting 83 - virtual administrative meeting – May 14 and 15, 2025

Meeting 84 – in-person meeting with CLI in Yellowknife/Dettah the week of June 16

**82.11 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 Indigenous Peoples in MRBB activities**

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

**Goal 7. Ministers, Indigenous 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.**