



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 (day 1) | Indigenous Member | Saskatchewan |
| 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

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|-------------|-------------------------|
| Paula Siwik | MRBB Executive Director |
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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

- Agenda was approved

82.3 Secretariat Update

- i. Secretariat staff update
 - J. Cederwall, an Interchange employee from the Government of NWT, joined the MRBB Secretariat in January for a 2 year position.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Activity Table – review
 - Reviewed progress on action items from past meetings.
- iv. 2023-24 Annual Report Text
 - Members asked to review draft text and send revisions.
- v. 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.
- vi. Letters of support
 - MRBB members have no concerns with the January 2025 letter sent by the MRBB Secretariat in support of a project proposal. Going forward, the Secretariat should clarify commitments around information sharing, MRBB priorities and outcomes.
- vii. Orientation Video
 - The orientation video will remain in the members only section of 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

- i. Alberta
 - ii. British Columbia
 - iii. Northwest Territories
 - iv. 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 have asked MRBB members to complete an online poll on priorities. As 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.

- i. Yukon
- ii. Saskatchewan – verbal update
- iii. CIRNAC – no report
- iv. 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.

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