



April 24, 2013 Meeting  
Committee for Cooperative Moose Management  
Winnipeg River Learning Centre, Pine Falls

**In attendance:**

Kelly Leavesley (MCWS)	Rene Barker (Hollow Water FN)
Ivan Lavoie (Sagkeeng FN Trapper)	Stu Jansson (MB Trappers Assoc)
Vince Keenan (MBMF)	Ernest McPherson (Black River FN TAAC)
Daniel Dupont (MCWS)	Brian Kotak (MBMF)
Ken Rebizant (MB Conservation)	Hank Hristienko (MCWS)
Gerry Arbez (LdB Wildlife Assoc)	Kevin Doerksen (MCS)
Wayne Moneyas (Hollow Water FN)	Cam Neurenburg (LdB Wildlife Assoc)
Jim Hoard (Pinawa Game & Fish Assoc)	Hilda Bjork (Hollow Water FN TAAC)
Eugene Bear (Hollow Water FN TAAC)	Brian Joynt (MCWS)
Trevor Barker (MB Hydro)	John Williams (MB Wildlife Federation)
Gerry Arbez (LdB Wildlife Association)	Jamie Hardisty (Hollow Water FN)
Ralph Cowley (Hollow Water FN TAAC)	Ron Missyabit (MCWS)
Brian Kotak (MBMF)	

**Introductions:**

Introductions were made as there were several new people in attendance.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

The April 22 Free Press article was added as a new agenda item.

**March 19 Minutes:**

Brian noted that he had received some revisions from Kelly, including notes on a follow up action related to the Atikaki boat cache issue. It was determined that Brian would send the revised minutes out to everyone and finalize them after comments were received back.

**Update on moose curriculum:**

Bob Austman was not able to attend tonight but provided copies of the draft curriculum package which were provided to committee members, along with a request to provide feedback and comments to him by May 15.

**April 22 Free Press article:**

Ron Missyabit stated that the Free Press article by Bill Redekop entitled "Black Market in Moose Thrives" provided inflammatory and inaccurate information on the status of the GHA 26 moose population and "claims" of black market sales of moose. Ken McMaster was quoted throughout the

article and identified as a director of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation. Several quotes were attributed to an unnamed source identified as a member of the Moose Committee.

The following statements by Brian Kotak (Chair, Moose Committee) and John Williams (Wildlife Federation Past President) clearly indicate that the views, comments and information presented in the article were not discussed with the Moose Committee or the Wildlife Federation and do not represent the views of either organization:

- Brian Kotak indicated that he was surprised at the article as the reporter had also come out to Pine Falls to interview him – the reporter’s focus was almost entirely on how the “Metis Decision” would affect moose – the reporter did not mention anything about poaching or black market hunting. Brian told the reporter that he could not speak to the Metis Decision and provided him instead with information on the history, collaborative work and successes of the Moose Committee.
- Brian indicated that he was disturbed by the tone and content of the article and the wrongful information and references to the Moose Committee contained therein. He also stated that the Moose Committee’s Terms of Reference are clear that any media stance or comments attributable to the Committee must be developed by Committee members and communicated by the chair. The article implied that the views presented and comments quoted in the article were representative of the Moose Committee, when this is not true.
- John Williams indicated that he was just as surprised. None of this was discussed by the Wildlife Federation. The comments in the article are Ken McMaster’s only – they do not represent the Wildlife Federation.

The following summarizes statements made by the Moose Committee members in response to the article, not necessarily in the order expressed during the meeting. Some of the comments were made prior to Hollow Water and Black River First Nations members leaving the meeting, and some after. All members in attendance were unanimous in expressing dismay, anger and disagreement with the tone, content and messaging in the article:

- This kind of article violates the good will and spirit of the Committee and damages the cooperative progress that it has achieved.
- 150 moose shot by one person – ridiculous, who’s the source?
- Committee members staking out a moose camp – where did that come from?
- Ordering moose meat – bullshit!
- Offensive, hurtful, disgusting, damaging to relationships!
- Full of wrong information – people will believe all of this!
- This just incites hatred. We need to build bridges, not burn them
- The only way to benefit the moose is if we all work together
- While there is some positive information in the article most of it (e.g. rise in moose numbers) is twisted into a negative light.
- We are assuming that the reporter accurately quoted Ken McMaster. Ken should be here to defend himself – reporters are notorious for misquotes and sensationalism. The article may not represent what he said.

- Completely disagree with article
- How did the reporter determine the “credentials” of his source and whether the source was “highly respected”?
- Is this just petty politics related to the Wildlife Federation’s internal problems? Was the article timed to coincide with the Wildlife Federation’s Convention this weekend?
- Ken McMaster needs to address this issue.
- Ken McMaster should be kicked off of the Committee.
- If it was me interviewed and had my words twisted I would have been burning up the telephone lines letting everyone know that I had been misquoted.
- The reporter’s response to reader comments indicates that 3 Committee members contributed quotes for the article.
- Nobody else on the Committee has “owned-up” to being interviewed and they probably won’t.
- The Committee has Terms of Reference which need to be followed

Discussion turned to what could be done to refute the article and let everyone know that the quotes contained therein are inaccurate and do not reflect the opinions or views of the Moose Committee:

- A letter to the editor should be sent to the Free Press from the Moose Committee . It should include an invitation to attend a Moose Committee meeting.
- The letter should include Ron’s points about aboriginal peoples.
- The letter should acknowledge government’s MOU with the Metis Federation.
- A letter should be sent from the Director of Wildlife to the First Nations leadership and TAAC members expressing disapproval of the article.
- A Press Release should be issued by the Moose Committee. This should include a link to the Model Forest moose page and include names of all the organizations represented on the Committee. The Free Press may not print it but all the other newspapers will.
- The Lac du Bonnet Wildlife Association will be sending a letter to the Minister commending the Committee and the department for efforts and actions undertaken.

Wayne Moneyas, Hollow Water First Nation councillor stated that the article was a slap in the face. He stated that Hollow Water does not support the Committee if this article represents the views around the table. He indicated that he was asking Hollow Water members to walk out of the meeting tonight and that Hollow Water would no longer be a part of the Committee. He added that the First Nations members would be having a meeting amongst themselves when they left the meeting. Councillor Moneyas then left the meeting, accompanied by all Hollow Water and Black River First Nations members in attendance.

Following the departure of the Hollow Water and Black River representatives, the remainder of the evening was devoted to addressing the issue of the article, it’s affect on the Committee, and how to repair the damage done and rebuild relationships. All members agreed that it would be pointless to continue on with the planned meeting agenda and talk about moose modeling or workshop planning in the absence of the First Nations communities. It was also agreed that participation of First Nations on the Moose Committee was critical, and that without the First Nations there would be no Moose

Committee. Meetings will be postponed until the First Nations are back at the table. It is critical to get the message out that the article included inaccurate, misleading and offensive information, and that the viewpoints in the article in no way represent the views and objectives of the Moose Committee.

- By tomorrow:
  - Draft letter to editor- Free Press from the Moose Committee – objective is to get it in Saturday’s newspaper.
  - Draft letter to Hollow Water First Nation and the other FN communities on the moose committee, Manitoba Metis Federation from Moose Committee stressing the critical importance of their participation on the moose committee and their valuable contribution. Should also include an offer to meet further to discuss matter.
- By Friday:
  - Draft letter to Ken McMaster from the Moose Committee, advising of concerns with the article and requesting him to respond.
  - Draft letter to Manitoba Wildlife Federation from the Moose Committee, referencing article and requesting clarification as to whether the comments attributed to Ken McMaster represent the views and position of the Federation; and; requesting that the letter and the Federation’s response be posted on their website.
- And subsequently:
  - Request Wildlife Branch to write letter to editor-Free Press. Note – Conservation representatives indicate that letters to the editor are not permitted by government policy; however, an enquiry will be made to see if this is possible;
  - Draft letter from Conservation to Hollow Water First Nation
  - Draft editorial refuting Free Press article and summarizing accurate information on status of the moose population and efforts being taken by many parties for moose conservation in eastern Manitoba. Editorial to be sent to Free Press, Winnipeg Sun and local community newspapers.