



Committee for Cooperative Moose Management
Meeting Minutes (Final Version)
December 17, 2015
Winnipeg River Learning Centre, Pine Falls

Present:

Mike Adey (MLOA)	Brian Kotak (MBMF)
Gerry Arbez (MB Wildlife Federation)	Cam Neurenburg (LdB Wildlife Assoc.)
Bob Austman (MBMF)	Kelly Leavesley (MCWS)
Kevin Doerksen (MCWS)	Daniel Dupont (MCWS)
Jim Hoard (Pinawa Game & Fish)	
Paul Millan (Brokenhead River Game & Fish)	

1. Introductions – everyone introduced themselves at the beginning of the meeting.

2. Review/Additions to the Agenda

Prior to commencing with the main items of the agenda, Kelly asked the committee if they indeed want to produce a moose management/recovery plan. Before we undertake such an initiative, there should be agreement that this is the direction we want to take. All committee members present indicated that we need such a plan and that we need to start on it now.

Several committee members indicated the importance of such a plan:

- Draft park management plans for Nopiming and Manigotagan River have been developed by the Province, and each draft plan already mentions the development of a moose recovery plan by the Committee for Cooperative Moose Management
- The Owl Lake caribou strategy was developed by the Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee several years ago and forwarded to Minister. That plan is an example of something that works
- Action plans/recovery plans for Species at Risk and for other species have been written by other parties (i.e., doesn't have to be written by a government department or agency)

There was discussion on what to call the moose plan. We could call it an action plan or recovery plan. This would make it consistent with terms used now in legislation

There was a question about why has the EMWCAC (caribou committee) has not been active for several years? No forestry in the region, and the biggest driver for the committee was forestry. However, caribou action plans are needed by 2018. New woodland caribou provincial strategy came out in Oct 2015. The province needs to reactivate the caribou committee.

Other considerations for the moose recovery plan:

- We want to make sure that the document we produce is used and does not end up on the shelf
- The moose recovery strategy must include MB Metis Federation and First Nation input. While there is MMF and a limited amount of First Nation participation on the committee, there is also separate consultation processes for both. How does that consultation process and its results fit into our moose recovery strategy? The CCMM does not have access to the process and results of those consultations
- Difficult to set a population objective when we don't what the Indigenous communities' needs are.

Finally, there was agreement that we can develop much of the recovery strategy without knowing the outcome of the aerial survey. The principle recommendations will not rely on knowing exactly what the current population is.

3. Minutes from the November 26 Meeting

David Heinrichs provided some clarifications on Metis' rights under the Consultation section of the minutes. Brian pointed these out to the committee (Brian left on the Track Changes in the document so that everyone could see David's specific comments). All were OK with the minutes. Brian will produce a final set and post them on the MBMF website.

4. Management Planning

a) Moose Modeling

Daniel and Kelly reviewed the moose modeling presentation. Do we have an estimate of how many moose are taken by wolves? Not sure, but it is likely a lot lower than what we originally thought (original estimate of 400 moose/yr, which came from an estimate of 8 ungulates/wolf/yr from Riding Mountain National Park data)

Still don't have much predation information from the spring period. This would include predation on moose calves by wolves and bear. MCWS are doing kill site investigations year round to get a more complete picture.

We now have better info on wolf numbers (through surveys, # trapped from the incentive program). Also use moose reproductive rates, moose survival and predation rates from other studies and our work to improve the population model.

Several committee members indicated that measures to eliminate market hunting and night hunting would go a long way to ensuring a sustainable moose population.

- b) Straw dog of components of moose recovery strategy/review of brain storming ideas from June 23 meeting

Before reviewing the straw dog (table of contents) for the moose recovery strategy, Kelly showed the committee examples of moose plans for different provinces. Each one is different in terms of content and the issues affecting moose:

- Newfoundland Moose Management Plan – biggest challenge is moose vehicle collisions. Very small table of contents. The plan is a simple one.
- Utah Moose Plan – more formal introduction, including all of the limiting factors
- Minnesota Moose and Research Management Plan – highlights using research to better understand their issues
- BC Provincial Framework for Moose Management

Kelly to send out copies to committee members so they can read.

Brian reviewed a draft copy of a “straw dog” table of contents for our moose recovery plan that he put together. The straw dog includes 4 main headings:

- A) Introduction (rationale for the strategy, moose management committee, core principles of strategy, etc.)
- B) Factors Affecting the Moose Population in GHA 26 (info taken largely from our previous Moose News newsletters and meeting minutes)
- C) Research and Management Actions Taken to Date, and Results on the Moose Population in GHA 26 (a summary of all the actions we have taken so far, and its positive impact so far on the moose population or on our understanding of moose)
- D) Moose Recovery and Management Recommendations (Brian listed off all the ideas we generated from our June 2015 workshop)

Brian indicated that this is just a draft table of contents (with a few subheadings as well) and said that it is up to the committee to decide on an appropriate format. Kelly indicated that the caribou committee took many months to decide on a format and spent a large amount of time word smithing the document and recommendations in the Owl Lake caribou strategy. She believes that we can develop and agree upon the moose recovery strategy much more quickly.

There was consensus by the committee that we need to start working on the strategy now. Kelly indicated that we should hold a meeting every month for the next several months to develop the recommendations in the recovery strategy. Brian indicated that he would be willing to facilitate these meetings and that he would also be willing to write the draft version of the recovery strategy document. Most of the information for sections A, B and C already exists, so Brian could start on those sections early in the new year. Kelly indicated that the MBMF has received some funding from MCWS (from a Treasury Board submission) to support the operations of the moose committee. Some of this money could be used to pay Brian to develop the draft recovery strategy. This would help MCWS staff a great deal, as they will be tied up with aerial surveys and collaring for a significant time this winter, and would not have the time to write the strategy. The committee members thought this was a reasonable approach. Brian indicated that he

would prepare a budget for the drafting of Sections A, B & C of the recovery strategy. Brian indicated that his time for facilitation of the meetings to the end of March is already being paid out of the HSP grant that the MBMF has received.

c) Timing of submission of moose recovery strategy to province

The committee agreed that it would be good to have a final copy of the recovery strategy completed sometime in June, so that it could be submitted to the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship before the summer.

There was a question as to how long it would take to re-open GHA 26 to moose hunting (should the aerial survey this winter indicate that the moose population is doing well). Kelly indicated that the “seasons” meeting, during which hunting seasons and bag limits are determined, occurs in August. However, before that meeting, there are internal meetings with others to get recommendations. In October, wildlife managers meet with other managers. The best case scenario for re-opening GHA 26 to moose hunting is 2017. Some of our recommendations may be able to be implemented immediately, but others may take more time for the province to implement.

5. Other

Nothing

6. Next Meeting

January 7, 2016 at the Winnipeg River Learning Centre in Pine Falls. We will begin working on the recommendations section of the recovery strategy.