



Committee for Cooperative Moose Management
Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2016
Winnipeg River Learning Centre, Pine Falls

Present:

Brian Kotak (MBMF)	Jim Hoard (Pinawa Game & Fish)
Kelly Leavesley (MBSD)	Cam Neurenburg (MB Wildlife Federation)
Earl Simmons (MBSD)	Stu Jansson (LdB Fur Council)
Gerry Arbez (MB Wildlife Federation)	Bob Austman (MBMF)
Mike Adey (MLOA)	Paul Millan (Brokenhead G&F Assoc)
Ken Rebizant (MBSD)	Daniel Dupont (MBSD)
Ron Myssyabit (MBSD)	Orton Ramsay (Black River FN member)
Ernest McPherson (Black River FN member)	

1. Opening Prayer and Introductions

Ernest said an opening prayer at the beginning of the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. Review/Additions to the Agenda

Brian reviewed the agenda and explained that the main objective of the meeting was to work on developing and word-smithing the recommendations.

3. Minutes from the November 24, 2016 Meeting

Earl indicated that the signage near Bissett is being addressed. Glenn Miller (District Supervisor at Pine Falls) has also spoken to Ivan. As a clarification of last meeting's discussion on enforcement, Earle indicated that 8 individuals were charged for night hunting, with 4 vehicles being seized and 2 individuals charged for moose hunting in the closed area. There were also additional charges under The Wildlife Act and other statutes.

Ernest questioned the large sign near the Black River bridge on PR304, that indicates no moose hunting. This is the BRFN trap line and community members are concerned that they are not allowed to take moose on their trap line. This is a closed moose hunting area (to all) and MBSD indicated that they could meet with the community to explain the closure. It has been a while since the province has met with the community.

Daniel clarified that on page 3 of the draft meeting minutes regarding mortality caused by wolves, that any inferences on mortality can only be made if the sample size is adequate.

Ceremonial hunt: Some committee members wanted more information regarding the ceremonial moose hunt in western Manitoba. Only one person was to be hunting and yet there was more than 1 person carrying a gun. The hunt was supposed to introduce youth to moose hunting, but there were no youth in the photos. Ron provided some background on the ceremonial hunt - Ron received a text from Grand Chief Nepinak with a request from aboriginal students at U of M to conduct a ceremonial moose hunt. Prior to closure in Duck and Porcupine Mountains, communities asked that they be allowed to take a moose for ceremonial purposes. This was granted. Ron also clarified that women were not at the camp, but processed the meat back in the community. Some committee members questioned the optics of the hunt, especially since the hunt occurred in a conservation closure. Cam indicated that this is a good example of where more education is required. Information has to be shared.

Trevor mentioned that this was important for the youth, who many have not have had a chance to hunt because of the closure. How long is the closure? By the time the closure is lifted, a whole generation of youth that will have missed the opportunity for moose hunting.

Ron mentioned that the meat was distributed to houses (Elders). Ron to send Brian an email with the information.

4. Draft Recommendations for GHA 26 Moose Status Report

The committee began working through the draft recommendations and finalized the wording on a number of recommendations (as shown on the attached list of recommendations). During this exercise, more comments and questions were raised, which are summarized below:

- If aerial survey for the Duck Mountains is not flown this winter (e.g., due to lack of snow), MBSD indicates that other areas would be considered. There are contingency plans. GHA17A would be the next priority area. Can consideration be given to surveying GHA26 in 2017 (instead of GHA17A)? Ken indicated that GHA26 was the last on the priority list. However, it is important to consider all the work on the management strategy when that decision is made. Ken indicated that this suggestion will be brought up in the department. Some felt that a moose survey in GHA26 should take precedence over GHA17A, should the survey in the Duck Mountains this winter not be possible. It was pointed out that there has not been an aerial survey in GHA17A for a number of years.
- When discussing a population objective for moose in GHA26, some committee members indicated that the objective needs to be based on the carrying capacity of the ecosystem. Habitat is an important component of carrying capacity and the lack of fire and harvesting has already started to alter habitat. Brian indicated that there is a recommendation for research into the implications of the lack of fire and harvesting on habitat. Kelly mentioned that the HSI model is very general and is not very useful at looking at habitat for moose. There was a question whether

GHA26 could be split into 2, as the south part of the GHA is very different (in terms of habitat) than the north. Ken mentioned that the department does not like to split GHAs for management purposes. It is easier just to create separate hunting regulations for each area within the GHA, rather than split the GHA.

- Regarding the re-introduction of hunting to GHA26 for moose, the committee was in agreement that the status quo (in terms of how hunting was regulated in the past) is not acceptable. New ways of managing hunting need to be considered. Kelly indicated that there are mechanisms such as road closures and perhaps the committee could consider the concept of “floating” refuges, that are in place for a limited amount of time and that move around the GHA over time.

5. Next Meeting

January 26, 2017 at 5 pm in Lac du Bonnet (MBSD office)

6. Closing Prayer

Ernest said a closing prayer.