



Committee for Cooperative Moose Management  
Meeting Minutes (Final Version)  
December 6, 2012

**Present:**

Kelly Leavesley (MB Conservation)	Rene Barker (MBMF)
Orton Ramsey (Black River FN TAAC)	Ivan Lavoie (Sagkeeng FN Trapper)
Stu Jansson (MB Trappers Assoc)	Vince Keenan (MBMF)
Bob Austman (MBMF)	Ernest McPherson (Black River FN TAAC)
Daniel Dupont (MB Conservation)	Brian Kotak (MBMF)
Ken Rebizant (MB Conservation)	Hank Hristienko (MB Conservation)
Jim Niedermeyer (MB Wild Rice Assoc)	Ken MacMaster (MB Wildlife Fed)
Gerry Arbez (LdB Wildlife Assoc)	Kevin Doerksen (MB Conservation)
Olwyn Friesen (U of M)	

**Introductions** – everyone introduced themselves at the beginning of the meeting

**Additions to the Agenda** – None

**Minutes from the September 13, 2012 Meeting** – approved as presented

**Wolf Diet Study - Olwyn Friesen**

Stable isotopes are naturally-occurring isotopes of elements that can be used to help understand diet in animals – you are what you eat. They are natural chemical tracers from tissues.

Carbon (can tell you the diet of primary consumer) and nitrogen (can tell you what level of the food web an animal is feeding at).

Stable isotopes can be a useful measure of long-term diet

Muscle tissue can reveal information about short-term diet (as muscle is replaced every 3 months) as can hair/fur (summer period)

Results of study in GHA 26 – results are preliminary at this point in time

Winter diet: deer and snowshoe hare important in wolf diet (particularly deer)

Summer diet of wolves: moose in summer, but also beaver

More diverse diets in 2011/12 compared to 2010/11

Majority of wolves examined in the study had tapeworms, but a low diversity of parasites. One flatworm species. No nematodes (gastrointestinal roundworm)

When parasites were absent in wolves, there was a higher probability that wolves were feeding on moose. Higher parasite load in wolves was associated with a higher deer diet component

Higher deer populations may lead to higher transmission of parasites.

Can you tell if a wolf is feeding on calf moose versus adult moose? Not with the present study. We would need samples from calves and adults.

Study found that wolves were also eating fish. Found fish in stomach of wolves.

What about bears? What role may they be playing in moose population? Bears have diverse diets, but no studies done here. Some bears samples have been collected in our area by outfitters.

### **Wolf Incentive Program-Daniel Dupont**

Same program as last year. The program focuses on RLTs in GHA26. \$250/wolf. Have 4 wolves so far this winter. If you come across dead animals, you can submit it. Letters went out a week or 2 ago to trappers, to notify them. Daniel to send Brian info on species, sample types, etc.

### **Deer Head Collection – Daniel Dupont**

Last year 25 heads were submitted. This year, MB Conservation would like more. Have about 20 heads right now from GHA 26, 17A, 36, 34. LdB Wildlife Association mentioned that this Saturday will be an antler scoring. Brokenhead Fish & Game are doing their scoring on Jan 5. Would be an opportunity to get heads. Would be good for MC to pick up heads from Black River.

### **Wolf Hunting License**

Consultation is occurring on west side of province. What is the status for the rest of the province? MLOA wanted licenses for non-residents in late winter. MC looking into this possibility. Would be an additional season (2 weeks) for residents, non-residents. MC wants to talk to trappers to ensure the time period would have the least conflict with trappers.

March is a time of the year where wolf hunting will put more stress on ungulates (moose, deer, caribou). Trapper's have a concern with the timing. Trapper's also focusing on wolf incentive program. If outfitters take out an alpha male or female, this may result in more wolf pups. Does the committee have an opinion on this? Committee members to think about this.

### **Wolf Survey – Daniel Dupont**

Alaskan trackers coming out this winter. GHA26. They will do the whole area.

### **Moose Survey – Kelly Leavesley**

Aerial surveys will go ahead, provided we have snow. Have both moose and wolf surveys in the same year in the moose recovery areas. Would be good to have surveys done at the same time. Collaring of moose and other species will also occur this winter in the region. ESRA will be collaring wolves between Berens and Bloodvein rivers.

### **Moose Collaring - Kelly Leavesley**

One of last years collars stopped working. Could not find that collar. No signal since July. We can put collars on 6 moose this winter. Company will replace the collar that failed. Daniel showed the movements of 1 of the moose that we collared last winter.

### **Lake Winnipeg East System Improvement Project – Vince Keenan**

Moose committee provided recommendations to Hydro 2 times on the new transmission line project. These have been incorporated by Hydro. MC recommended to Hydro that monitoring occur before, during and after.

Suggestion to write a letter to Hydro: thanks for listening to us. Here are the mitigation measures we suggested. Keep line close to PR 304, use visual screen where transmission line crosses highway. Add monitoring suggestion. Wait for licensing process to start before sending in the letter.

### **Moose Conservation Planning - Kelly Leavesley**

Internal discussions occurring within MC still about how to design the process. Regional recovery plans are a priority. Then use that process to guide a provincial strategy. This committee is a good starting point. There will be a Section 35 process of Aboriginal communities, as well as stakeholder process (e.g., CCMM). Likely need a 2-day meeting. Similar to what was done previously for caribou a few years ago (done at the Manitou Lodge in Pine Falls). Likely looking at late Feb/early March.

### **Re-configuring GHA17 – Kelly Leavesley**

No further work done to date. Last few meetings we talked about using natural features (habitat, river corridors, east side road, etc) as boundaries. Need to talk to other communities in GHA 17. MC talked to Poplar River this fall. They provided good information.

There was a discussion about looking for outside sources of funding to do an aerial survey in GHA17. Suggestion that FN could partner with province to find other sources of funding.

### **Moose Closure in GHA26 – Kevin Doerksen**

Report for Sept to the end of November. There were 7 extra officers brought on in the fall. 19 dedicated patrols completed. Talked to 40 treaty hunters. 8 legal kills (outside of closed area), 8 illegal kills (in closed area- right on the road or trail), 1 unknown. 1 cow and calf shot and left near Long Lake. Not much activity up there. Most illegal kills within the first few weeks of Sept.

### **Moose Curriculum – Bob Austman**

Continued writing since we last met. Looking at completing the curriculum in the next fiscal year. Getting out to teachers in the fall. Bob will send out document for review once he has a first draft completed. Bob showed a website on wolf scat examination and animal calls (wolf calls, moose calls) that he will incorporate into the document.

Comments to add other Canadian jurisdictions and add hands-on exercises (aging, skulls)

### **Winnipeg River Integrated Wood and Biomass Project Update – Brian Kotak**

Brian gave a brief update on the forestry project. Looking to secure funding for the FN to be engaged in developing a shareholder's agreement with the 2 companies. Have had meetings with 3 of the 4 First Nations (Sagkeeng, Brokenhead, Black River) in the region. All are interested. Still trying to line up a meeting with Hollow Water (no response from them yet). We will be looking at establishing an MOU between the parties in the new year and then working on the environmental assessments for the woodlands and mills, as well as starting work on a 20 year forest management plan. There is a lot of excitement about the project. The partnership agreement between the 2 companies and First Nations will be modeled after an existing industry-FN partnership in the Kenora area.

At the next moose committee meeting, we need to discuss having a workshop on the regional moose recovery plan. Will likely be 2 days long. Have in April sometime? MC would like some ideas from CCMM on ideas for information to present.

**March 7 next CCMM meeting.** At this meeting, plan the workshop (to be held in April).