



Committee for Cooperative Moose Management  
Meeting Minutes  
January 26, 2017  
MB Sustainable Development Office, Lac du Bonnet

**Present:**

Brian Kotak (MBMF)	Jim Hoard (Pinawa Game & Fish)
Kelly Leavesley (MBSD)	Cam Neurenburg (MB Wildlife Federation)
Stu Jansson (LdB Fur Council)	Bob Austman (MBMF)
Mike Adey (MLOA)	Paul Millan (Brokenhead G&F Assoc)
Ken Rebizant (MBSD)	Daniel Dupont (MBSD)
Ron Myssyabit (MBSD)	Jeff Courchene (member of Sagkeeng FN)
Kirk Guimond (member of Sagkeeng FN)	Ivan Lavoie (member of Sagkeeng FN)

**1. Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves at the beginning of the meeting. Brian welcomed Jeff and Kurt. It is good to have additional First Nation participation on the committee.

**2. Review/Additions to the Agenda**

Brian reviewed the agenda. Add discussion of day of the week for holding meetings (Earl would prefer Wednesdays). The committee has no problem with having future meetings on Wednesdays (although the next meeting – Feb 16 – will be on a Thursday due to Brian’s schedule)

Ken Rebizant has some data to share on historic moose harvest by licensed hunters.

**3. Minutes from the December 20, 2016 Meeting**

Glen Miller – moose closure signs. Glen would like additional information. Would like some specific wording from Ivan so that all signs are more understandable. Perhaps some non-Sustainable Development people can review the draft signs to make sure the wording is understandable. It was suggested that Open and Closed areas to moose hunting be pointed out with arrows on the signs.

Ron M. indicated that he will send out info on ceremonial moose hunt. Cam indicated that good points were made at last meeting regarding the ceremonial moose hunt, which clarified things. Cam indicated that MWF was notified by Sustainable Development staff only 2 days prior to the ceremonial hunt. This was not enough time to get information out to MWF members. An improvement in communications would be beneficial. Needed more notice.

Cam discussed the issue around land and owners and people hunting without permission on private land. MWF Night Watch Program – received 18 calls from landowners regarding poaching on their land within a 2-month period. Numerous emails as well. RMs met with Minister of SD yesterday to look for solutions.

Kurt questioned about why we are focusing so much on poaching? There are other issues that are more important. Need to focus on solutions. Cam indicated that while poaching is one of many factors affecting the moose population, it is an important one. And it is one where there are legal measures in place to prevent it.

Jeff mentioned that he and Kurt had developed a management regime previously (drafted with Terry Dick – U of M). They would be willing to share this with the committee. Jeff indicated that we need to put the management of natural resources back into the hands of FNs. Timing is good now, as provincial government has a new mandate for the co-management of wildlife. Kurt mentioned that it is very important to understand how many moose are harvested (both licensed and Indigenous). However, there is a lack of trust by FNs with Sustainable Development. Moose harvest is more easily reported within the community. This could be reported to a consultation coordinator. Communities have a consultation coordinator. Jeff stressed that this person is not always available and effective. There is no communication within the community. He suggest that we have moose meetings in the communities. Need to meet with the hunters.

Kurt and Jeff also indicated that charging people for hunting infractions is not the answer. Courts are overloaded. Need alternate methods. Need a more collaborative approach. Need more education. People need to know what the regulations are and why they are in place. Many hunters do not know where the closures are. Closure signs are confusing.

Brian suggested that our Moose News newsletter is a good mechanism for getting information out to the communities. Brian will email the latest Moose News to Jeff

It was suggested that perhaps we should have workshops or meetings with the hunters in each community.

Cam indicated that other First Nation communities are also worried about the lack of progress. There is a new committee: Moose Matters. Share the same concerns.

It was noted that the CCMM helps everyone to understand different perspectives. We also believe that the resource must be shared.

Important for hunters to not only report harvest of animals, but also disease as well.

#### **4. Update from MB Sustainable Development**

Information from Earl: a) 13 moose kills recorded to date in GHA # 26 (one was legally taken. 12 illegal), b) recently 2 individuals were charged for killing 3 bull moose in the closed area near Bissett. The moose meat was given to Sagkeeng, Black River and

Hollow Water, be given to the needy, c) patrols continue in the close area throughout the winter.

Ken provided historical moose harvest by licensed hunters in GHA26, based on hunter questionnaires. Last 3 years (2007, 2008, 2009) had a poor return rate (when they moved to electronic reporting), so the harvest numbers are likely not representative. Now have gone back to mail out questionnaires. Data show an annual moose harvest that is variable, between 20 and 120 from 1993 to 2009.

Is there a possibility of switching of GHA17A and GHA26 for this winter's aerial survey? Was discussed internally in Sustainable Development, but will keep to their original priority list.

Original check station concept for GHA26? Can this be used again? There were not enforcement stations. It was a good way of collecting information on hunting success. Problem with check stations is they require 3 shifts per day. Need to 2 check stations for GHA26. Would require too many people.

Will there be a moose survey in the Duck Mountains this winter? GHA21 completed a strip transect survey. Still plan to do Duck and Porcupine Mountains. Lack of snow up until last Friday in the Duck Mountains. Since then though, they have received enough snow, but most of it is in the trees. Need some wind to force the snow to the ground. There is expectation that the surveys will be done. Will find out on Monday. If they can't fly GHA in the Ducks/Porcupine Mountains, budget is available for GHA17A. However, more snow is required in GHA17A as well.

## **5. Funding Update**

MBMF has made a funding application to FWEF for about \$24,000. Project involves community workshops and meetings to develop the framework of a citizen-based wildlife monitoring system. Workshops to be held in a number of communities in eastern MB, including FN communities in the region and north of GHA26 (e.g., Bloodvein, Poplar River, Little Grand Rapids). If funded, project would run from June 2017 to March 2018. CCMM to play a key role in structuring the workshops and identifying which specific communities to include, objectives of the workshops and questions to be answered at the workshop.

MBMF meeting with Minister of SD held on Jan 19 to discuss history of MMBF, benefits to provincial government and status of funding proposal to CCMM. Very positive meeting. Funding proposal is still under review by Treasury Board.

MBMF and Canadian Model Forest has been in dialogue with the federal government for an entire year now regarding re-establishment of core funding. A letter was received today from Minister Jim Carr, indicating that core funding is not available.

Mike reminded everyone of the MLOA Hunter and Angler Preservation Fund. Deadline for funding applications is Jan 31.

Brian indicated that Garf Bushie sent him an email this morning. He would like to see firearms training in Hollow Water. He applied for funding from Hydro, but Hydro indicated that this type of training does not fall within their funding criteria. Can that be something that HW could apply for though the Hunter & Angler Preservation Fund? Brian to send info on the Fund to Garf.

Kelly indicated that the CCMM has often talked about predation by bears on moose. Sagkeeng put in 2 proposals (Aboriginal Species at Risk, and Wildlife Enhancement Fund). Outfitters in GHA26 are also interested in the project. Daniel has put in proposals: looking at moose health (collecting samples during capture work and mortality) such as pregnancy, blood health markers. Another application to work with local trappers to help re-collar individuals wolves in packs where collars are lost or the collared wolves have died. Both applications were to the Wildlife Enhancement Fund. Also applying for a collaborative research grant (Hydro is involved).

Cam: MWF was beneficiary of \$50K donation. Specific to development of a co-management strategy for big game in MB. Trying to leverage additional money from other foundations. Looking to the province to determine what the next step is. MWF will be meeting with Moose Matters to get input. Brian indicated that there is already a Treasury Board submission from the MBMF for co-management. If the province provides funding to MBMF, it is important that the government, MBMF and MWF work together. Need to all be on the same page. Cam: GHA26 should be a model.

## **6. Draft Recommendations**

The committee deferred working on the draft recommendations to the next meeting.

## **7. Next Meeting**

Feb 16 at 5:45 pm at the Manitoba Sustainable Development office in Lac du Bonnet.