



Committee for Cooperative Moose Management  
Meeting Minutes (Final Version)  
January 30, 2014  
Paper Town Motor Inn  
Powerview, MB

**Present:**

Kelly Leavesley (MCWS)	Stu Jansson (MB Trappers Assoc)
Brian Kotak (MBMF)	Ken Rebizant (MB Conservation)
Earl Simmons (MCWS)	Paul Turenne (MLOA)
Bob Austman (MBMF)	Jim Niedermeyer (MB Wild Rice)
Ivan Lavoie (Sagkeeng FN member)	Paul Millan (Brokenhead River G & F)
Jim Hoard (Pinaway Game & Fish)	Ernest McPherson (Black River FN)
Ron Missyabit (MCWS)	Don Halbert (LdB Wildlife Assoc)
Daniel Dupont (MCWS)	

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

**Additions to the Agenda** – MTA annual convention in Lac du Bonnet on Feb 28/March 1

**Minutes from the Nov 21, 2013 Meeting** – minor corrections (spelling, # of new collars) were suggested to the Wildlife Monitoring Plans section

**Updates**

**Wolf Trapping Incentive Program – Daniel Dupont**

Number of wolves trapped over the program to date:

2010/11 – 18

2011/12 – 57

2012/13 – 34

2013/14 – 17 as of Jan 30 (all from northern ½ of GHA26)

How does this compare to the wolf population? Ivan has noticed that there are more wolves, but smaller packs. He is worried that these packs will get bigger and then target moose. He suggested that there is a need to step up the program to compensate for this. Need to take out entire packs. Now those wolves are educated. Stuart raised a concern that recreational hunters will also lead to educating the wolves. Recreational hunters will be selective: take out the largest, alpha animal. Will lead to breeding of the younger wolves. There is a need to reduce pack density, not wolf density

MCWS acknowledged that the program isn't perfect. The program was designed for 5 years and it is a learning experience for everyone.

This winter has been difficult to trap wolves. Ivan indicated that wolves will show up for 1 day and then disappear. Hard to set snares this winter. Fewer trappers have been out. Have to stick to their trails because of deep snow. Wolves seem to be getting bolder now. Maybe because the wolves have not been successful in hunting.

Stuart brought up the policy of allowing 12-month hunting season in open areas for wolves, as long as you have a trapping license. This is affecting the trappers. MCWS advised that those regulations are under review. Stu hopes that the regulation changes. The policy has resulted in unethical activity. The intent was to reduce the problems that were being caused by these species. Kelly will take those comments back to the fur unit.

### **Deer Head Collection Program**

63 submitted this year, most from GHA26

49 examined so far

Most had brain worm. Looking at age, sex, location of harvest, nematodes

Male: 23 of 26 positive, female 19 of 23 positive

The data showed that about 1/2 of the fawns did have brain worm

3 tested positive from Black River road grade

Ivan indicated that 2 years ago, there was an increase in deer around Bloodvien and Berens River. Would be interesting to know if brain worm is there. The deer follow the roads up north.

### **Bear samples from GHA26 for stable isotopes**

Outfitters were asked to submit samples. Ivan stated that bears could be a major affect on moose population. Analysis of hairs for diet analysis is difficult for bears, due to breadth of their diet compared to wolves. Could get outfitters to open up the stomachs of the bears. However, the stomach contents represents only 1 or 2 meals, and the food could also have been scavenged versus a kill.

### **Liver fluke**

Is it recent for this area? In SE Manitoba, this was common in the 1980s. In late 1980s/early 1990s, Stu indicated that moose livers from our area had liver fluke. In GHA26, the incidence of liver fluke is not as high as it was in SE MB. Also related to the presence of deer. Is liver fluke moving up here? Not sure. Not hearing anything from hunters in the region. Ivan has noted liver fluke in moose from our area. Would be good to have samples.

## **Report on Fall/Winter Moose Seasons in GHA17/17A**

Todd Hughes looks after Lake Winnipeg East district.

Early season – temps were very warm. 66 moose harvested by licensed hunter (is on the low side of historical levels).

Late season- limited access due to snow, swamps not frozen. Only a few confirmed kills

First Nations north of Bloodvein – about 34 treaty kills reported

About 109 moose harvested in total

Any indication of how many moose were seen, versus harvested? No info

### **GHA Moose Protection Zone Patrol Report**

MCWS still continues to patrol. Fairly quiet in fall and winter. Moose have been more active recently due to cold weather. More moose tracks being observed. About 5 moose killed in last month. 3 in closure area. 2 outside of closure area. 1 person charged early in the fall hunting in the closed area.

Overall, compliance has been good among hunters and traditional harvesters. People are seeing more moose in the open areas.

Translicense Road is not accessible. Not plowed, so access is gone.

### **Big Game Surveys**

Moose surveys are occurring in GHA 9A this year. Concentrating all efforts there. Currently in progress. Will also be doing wolf surveys immediately following the moose survey. If any \$ let, money could be directed to a wolf survey in GHA 26.

Elk survey in the Duck Mountains is being contemplated. Depends on funding.

### **GPS Collaring Projects**

3 collars will be deployed on moose this winter. Found some \$ to purchase wolf collars (4). Capture company will come in mid Feb. Caribou and wolves will be collared first for ESRA, then our area. Contract for capture company is sitting with Treasury Board right now.

All GPS collars on caribou are dropping off this winter. Have to retrieve them once they drop off.

### **Proposed Extension of Chief George Barker Wildlife Refuge**

With the east side road being upgraded, MCWS wanted to look at the wildlife refuge again. Have been talking to communities. In November, MCWS sent letters to the FN communities, inviting them to a consultation process. Talked a limited amount to Sagkeeng and Black River. Want to be proactive, not reactive. There is nothing to indicate that there is something wrong with the moose populations now. Proposing that refuge be extended all the way up to Berens River. Have not had any consultation meetings yet.

The refuge would include all animals. Stuart asked if that would include furbearers. Likely. In the southern portion (current area), no trapping is allowed within 300m of the road. Stuart indicated that there are people trapping there despite the ban. MCWS will discuss this with MTA. For the new refuge, there could be a different model used, one that includes trapping. Trapping community is feeling that they are being more and more restricted to where they can trap.

### **GHA26 Moose Consultations**

Consultations about to start with Hollow Water. Black River consultations are on-going. Sagkeeng process to be developed (they are already in a separate process for moose). Questions to ask: how do you see yourself involved in moose management? How long should the closure be in place?

About to begin 2<sup>nd</sup> phase.

Next meeting on the moose consultation with BRFN is on Feb 19. A guest speaker will be coming from Minnesota; Fond du Lac Band has a biologist, who will come. Can he speak to moose committee? BRFN indicated that moose committee can be invited to BRFN for their meeting. Ivan indicated that the Micmac and Kenora (Treaty 3) are good examples of moose management.

Kelly to confirm the meeting date/time/location. Maybe opportunity on Feb 20.

### **Workshop Planning**

Modeling – Hank has been digging into the literature on wolves (diet on moose). Our findings from the stable isotope analysis is different from what is in the model. Need to make sure that the parameter for moose consumption by wolves is value for our area.

Need to know how many moose can be supported by the available habitat. What is the impact of no forest industry? Moose surveys: all moose where were the cutblocks were.

There is a moose habitat model but would need to run the numbers.

Tembec long term forest management plan – modeled moose habitat using HSI

The group in Treaty 3 in NW Ontario have done all the modeling and this information is on the internet. Should look into their information as it is a similar boreal environment.

Need more snowshoe hare and beaver samples for the stable isotope analysis to better understand wolf diet.

With a population survey next winter, consultation processes, we could be in a position to make decisions in 2015 of how/when to open the hunting of moose in GHA 26.

Leaders in the communities should be making it known to government that it is important to make timely decisions and to provide adequate resources.

MCWS asked what do we want to hear in the presentations for the workshop?

- a) habitat availability and capability
- b) examples of total hunting closures? Happy Lake, GHA in The Pas
- c) Question of how you would introduce hunting? What are the legal ramifications of reopening the hunt? FN first, resident, then non-resident hunting? NRTA? Métis?

1st evening of presentations, 2<sup>nd</sup> day of working on moose management options for a regional moose plan

Date for modeling meeting: sometime in early March (March 6)?

Moose committee bank account: keep where it is. Use it to support the moose committee, now and into the future. Kelly to get the bank balance for next meeting.

Wildlife enhancement fund: apply when the fund is available?

### **MLOA Proposal for Non-Resident Wolf Hunting Season**

MTA has concerns with the proposal and will come back to MLOA with a formal response. The committee indicated that this discussion should take place between the MTA and MLOA. Stu brought this topic up at the meeting as an information item only.

### **Moose Curriculum**

Bob handed out the moose curriculum.

### **Status of Model Forest in 2014/15**

Brian indicated that the four First Nations and 2 companies are at the point of negotiating some of the broad terms of their partnership. A business plan still needs to be submitted to the province in order to move the project forward. The business plan is still under

development. Brian indicated that the process is taking longer than anticipated, but the extra time is allowing the partners to work on developing relationships.

### **Next Meeting**

March 6 – modeling will be the main topic