



MBMF Committee for Cooperative Moose Management Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2011

Present:

Kelly Leavesley	Brian Kotak	Mitch Walker
Herman Detman	Vince Keenan	Ernest MacPherson
Stu Jansson	Cam Neurenborg	Ken MacMaster
Reid Wood	Paul Millan	Doug McPherson
Ron Missyabit	Eugene Bear	Bob Austman
John Williams	Gerry Arbez	Jim Hoard
Ivan Lavoie		

Introductions – Kelly welcomed everyone and each person introduced themselves. There were several people from the Manitoba Wildlife Federation who attended. These included Reid Wood (President), John Williams (Past President) and Ken MacMaster (Director)

Distribution of meeting minutes – Kelly provided copies of the minutes from the last moose committee meeting (May 12, 2011). She asked that if anyone had any suggested revisions, to let her know. Once the minutes are finalized, the word “draft” will come off the minutes and the MBMF logo will be added so indicate that the minutes are the final version.

Selection of the Chair of the Moose Committee – Kelly indicated that she has asked at previous meetings if someone else would like to chair the committee. Kelly indicated that Brian Kotak, the General Manager of the MBMF has volunteered to chair the committee. Kelly said that she supports this, and that it would free up some of her time. Ken MacMaster stated that it is important that the chair be selected by the committee, rather than having a civil servant who is assigned to be the chair (as is the case for the moose committee in western Manitoba). Brian indicated that since we will be submitting moose management recommendations to the Minister of Conservation very soon, it would look better (optics) if the chair were not an employee of the government. Everyone was in general agreement. Ron Missyabit recommended that we hold off on selecting a new chair until after we have ratified the Terms of Reference for the committee.

Terms of Reference (TOR) – Kelly projected a copy of the TOR on the screen and committee members has a chance to offer comments on the draft TOR. The following discussions occurred:

- Kelly indicated that she added “including advice and recommendations on moose recovery strategies and action plans” in the Purpose of the Committee section

- In the Need/Issue section, replace the word “recreational” with “licensed” when referring to hunters
- In the 4th bullet under Principles, Kelly indicated that she added the word “social” to the values of moose. Kelly also added the 8th bullet to ensure that the principles included consideration of economic stakeholders
- Under Objectives, it was suggested that the 1st bullet (information and educational materials) be moved to the bottom of the list. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th bullets are more important. Finally, in the 5th bullet, replace “bridges” with “relationships” when referring to rights-based hunters and licensed hunters
- Under Committee Membership, change the 2nd bullet to: “The Chair shall be determined by the membership”
- Under Membership, Kelly will do some word-smithing to the 2nd bullet, so that each community/organization will have a member and an alternate on the committee, but also that we don’t want to limit the number of people coming to the meetings (an organization/community can bring more than 2 people, but that each organization/community has one vote, if certain issues come to a vote).
- The final bullet under Membership should indicate that “The committee may consider requests from a diversity of local interests in moose conservation, including, **but not limited to**, local communities, wildlife associations, industry, trapping associations, environmental organizations and cottage associations.” Words in bold were suggested to be added.
- Under Role and Responsibilities of Committee Members, Kelly indicated that the last bullet referring to the need for representatives to share information with their alternate when they are unable to make it to a meeting, is important
- Under Committee Code of Conduct, it was suggested that wording should be added to indicate that each organization/community has one vote, should a vote be required. There was also a suggestion that “traditional knowledge, if provided, will be shared and respected in the manner consistent with the policies of the respective First Nations” be added
- There was a suggestion that finalized minutes and other moose information (except sensitive information such as data showing moose distribution and density) be put on the MBMF website. For presentation materials (e.g., PowerPoint presentations), permission from the presenter must be obtained first)
- Under Committee Funding and Support, “and its partners” should be added after the reference to the Manitoba Model Forest. Financial reporting back to the committee by the MBMF should also be required.
- A discussion on the Committee Operating Procedures was deferred to a later date

Kelly will revise the TOR and bring them to the next meeting.

There was a discussion on membership, and the committee indicated that the MBMF should invite the MB Metis Federation to become a member of the committee. Brian Kotak will extend an invitation.

Kelly asked if everyone was in favor with all the suggested revisions to the TOR. All were in favor.

Kelly then asked the committee to vote for the selection of a new Chair (Brian Kotak). All were in favor. Cam thanked Kelly for the many years that she chaired the committee.

Moose Management Recommendations to Minister Blaikie

Kelly led the committee through several topics relating to potential recommendations to the Minister. These included categories of hunting, access, predation, habitat, parasites and disease, biological monitoring, information gaps, enforcement, public participation, and role of the CCMM. Due to time limitations, discussions and recommendations were limited to hunting, access and predation. As these are the most important recommendations to go to the Minister, the committee focused on these for the rest of the evening. Suggested wording for the recommendations to the Minister were:

Hunting

- Close moose hunting to all peoples in GHA 26 until the population reaches sustainable numbers. Sustainable numbers to be determined using current biological information and local considerations by December 31, 2011 . Appropriate programs should be put in place to monitor factors contributing to sustainability, including predation, access, disease and parasites.

Access

- Roads providing access to important moose areas should be decommissioned as soon as possible, to the most permanent extent possible
- The committee should provide input into short and long term access decommissioning plans

Predation

- Establish a wolf management program to help the moose population

Brian will take the above recommendations and put it into a draft letter to the Minister. Brian will circulate the draft letter later this week, and will need comments back by June 7. Brian will submit the letter to the Minister of Conservation by June 10.

Other discussions that occurred during the formulating of the recommendations included:

- We not only want a sustainable moose population, but a sustainable ecosystem (deer, wolves, etc.)
- Biologists should set the target population level
- The Happy Lake area was to be closed for only 5 years, but was closed for longer. We must be careful what we promise. We loose credibility when things change
- We need to take a regional approach to moose management. We don't want to shift the hunting pressure to other populations, only to have them crash

- We should be proactive with respect to access in GHA 17A. The moose population is in good shape there. Let's keep it that way.
- Brian should add something to the end of the letter to the Minister to indicate that the above recommendations are our core ones, but that the committee will be developing other ones as well. The recommendations presented to the Minister are the critical ones at this point in time. Other ones will follow.

Wolf Management Update - Kelly Leavesley

Kelly indicated that the Minister announced incentives for trappers with respect to wolves. MB Conservation met with 29 trappers last week. Studies have shown that realistically, 60-80% of the wolves must be removed in the first year of a program in order to have a positive effect on a moose population. Measures are more effective if whole wolf packs are removed, as opposed to loner wolves.

Options for a wolf control program include:

- Being open to all trappers
- Being open to individual trappers on individual RTLs where moose is a priority
- Other ideas?

Kelly mentioned that Paul Paquet (wolf expert) is willing to give a wolf seminar in Lac du Bonnet this weekend if there is interest. Most committee members indicated that they would attend.

Access Update – Kelly

Kelly mentioned that short-term decommissioning was done last fall, but not in all areas. Tembec still has to address liabilities with respect to their roads. It was suggested by the committee the MB Conservation must consult with people who may have interest in certain roads. Stu indicated that there must be a long-term strategy developed for access, that includes all transportation modes. For example, ATVs and snowmobiles have an impact by increasing predation success (particularly in winter)

Next Meeting – June 27 (Monday) at 5:30 PM at the Winnipeg River Learning Centre.

Minutes by Brian Kotak. Minutes approved by CCMM at their August 10, 2011 meeting.