



**Manitoba Model Forest  
Committee for Cooperative Moose Management  
Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2012  
Winnipeg River Learning Centre**

**Present**

Brian Kotak (MBMF)	Kelly Leavesley (MB Conservation)
Ken Rebizant (MB Conservation)	Daniel Dupont (MB Conservation)
John Williams (MB Wildlife Fed)	Tim Swanson (MB Conservation)
Gerry Arbez (LdB Wildlife Assoc)	Eugene Bear (Hollow Water FN)
Brent Tessier (MB Conservation)	Chris Atkin (MB Conservation)
Jim Niedermayer (MB Wild Rice Assoc)	Sandi Faber Routley (MB Métis Federation)
Ivan Lavoie (Sagkeeng FN)	Paul Millan (Brokenhead Game & Fish)
Vince Keenan (MBMF)	Bob Austman (MBMF)
Ken MacMaster (MB Wildlife Fed)	Ernest McPherson (Black River FN) Stu
Jansson (MB Trappers Assoc)	

**Introductions**

Committee members introduced themselves at the beginning of the meeting.

**Additions to Agenda**

None

**Update on Status of MBMF**

Brian provided an update on the funding status of the MBMF. The federal program that supports model forests in Canada will be phased out over the next 2 years. Funding has been cut in half to the MBMF for this year, and then cut by 75% next year. The program ends on March 31, 2014. In addition, no core funding will be coming from the provincial government and we have not heard back from Hydro yet on our funding requests. To deal with the large decrease in funding this year, the MBMF will likely eliminate 19 of their 23 programs that we have run in the last 5 years. In addition, staff time will also be reduced. The MBMF Board of Directors will be meeting on May 16 to discuss and approve a course of action

The MBMF is putting together a strategy for weathering this storm and will be developing an annual work plan that has 4 main components: 1) re-development of the forest industry in the region, along with the creation of a joint venture forest management company (with industry and our communities in the region), 2) providing some support to the caribou and moose committees, as well as the Traditional Area Advisory Committees at Black River and Hollow Water FN, 3) core operations (rent, office expenses, salaries, etc.), and 4) membership in the Canadian Model Forest Network. The forest industry

work in particular, will help to provide some new funding to the MBMF. The MBMF will need to get new funding in place over the next 9 months, or the next year will be very bleak (much worse than this year – we would only have enough money to keep one staff person employed – and only on a part-time basis).

Meetings have already taken place with the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship, as well as 2 forest products companies, and will take place with Vic Toews and the Premier's Priorities and Planning Committee of Cabinet.

The significant funding cuts to the MBMF will have consequences for the Moose committee. The MBMF will be able to provide \$3,000 this year to keep the committee functioning. This will pay for meals, but unfortunately we will no longer be able to cover mileage. We hope to secure funding in the future that will allow us to pay mileage again for people to come to the meetings. The MBMF will also not be able to fund research and monitoring any more, unless new sources of funding become available.

### **Minutes from the March 15, 2012 Meeting**

Page 2. Gerry clarified that snowmobiles and ATVs are allowed for hunting and fishing as well in Atikaki. However, no new trails will be allowed in the park.

Page 7. The acceptable density of wolves (to minimize predation impacts on a moose population) is 9 per 1000 km<sup>2</sup>, not 9 per km<sup>2</sup>

Page 6. 2<sup>nd</sup> last paragraph should read that FLIR could be useful for cow/calf or black bear surveys, particularly in deciduous habitats before the leaves are out.

### **Road and Access Decommissioning –Tim Swanson**

Tim provided a presentation on the access decommissioning efforts to date in GHA 26. Certain clauses in Tembec's FML agreement need to be taken care of before the forest can be returned to the Crown. Tim is interested in hearing from the moose committee about concerns, mitigation options and accommodating for uses. MB Conservation is not concerned with all roads on the FML, just key ones. There are too many winter roads. Primary roads are the focus. The intent is not to return the forest to a "pre-industrial" state.

There was a question about the status of Birch Point (south of Black River FN). There are still harvest blocks that were not harvested.

Temporary road decommissioning has been completed on a number of roads and trails. Portable bridges and culverts have been removed and taken away by Tembec last fall.

The Lake Winnipeg East Road (Rice River Road) now falls under the management of the East Side Road Authority.

Forestry roads in Nopiming Provincial Park have already been dealt with under a previous agreement.

Sand River East road was already decommissioned. It is still accessible for the trapper.

Stuart expressed concern that his wild rice licence was cancelled (due to a lack of production), but that access was cut off to his rice lakes, and therefore he could not get into his lakes. This does not make any sense.

Tim indicated that parties may want to take over management of some roads or parts of roads in FML01. For example, Mustang Minerals may have interest in the Translicense and Maskwa roads.

If there will be a forest industry here in the region again, the province does not want to eliminate all access. That access is an asset to attract industries.

Tim will be meeting with local user groups and First Nations first, before advertising a process for public input into the decommissioning plan for the FML. Tim would like to have all the planning completed by April 2013.

Sandy indicated to Tim that notification on the access decommissioning needs to be sent to the Métis Federation's head office.

If you have comments of concerns, or ideas for the decommissioning plan, you can contact Tim at (204) 345-1453 or [tim.swanson@gov.mb.ca](mailto:tim.swanson@gov.mb.ca)

Tim will send Brian a pdf version of the map that he showed at the meeting. This can be distributed to the Moose committee.

### **Moose/Wildlife Curriculum – Bob Austman**

Bob went through the draft lesson plan that he has developed to date. It fits in well with Grade 12 biology or Current Topics in Science. Aboriginal education framework is another option. There is a section on modeling populations using a generic model. MB Conservation suggested that Bob use the model that they use.

This is just the framework. The text will be passed around in phases to the committee. Input would be appreciated from MC and FN Elders and others on the Moose committee. Once the curriculum supplement is developed, Bob will workshop the curriculum with teachers to get their feedback. Ken suggested that Bob look at the Canadian Wildlife Federation Foundation for funding.

## **Reconfiguring GHA 17 – Kelly Leavesley**

MB Conservation has not had a chance to prepare anything yet. Components to look at when configuring a GHA includes enduring features, wildlife species that are present (e.g., more caribou in GHA17 than moose), social characteristics (hunting patterns, roads or fly-in). New all-weather road in GHA 17 will be important. Creating new GHAs is not something that is normally done. MB Conservation will bring data layers to visualize information, to the next Moose meeting.

There was a question about hunting buffer zones (road refuges) along all-weather roads? MB Conservation has been considering it. There appears to be support for this. Need to have buffers (that will not be logged) next to all-weather roads, because logging would promote young forest next to the road and attract moose (making them vulnerable to hunting).

## **Update on Effectiveness of Moose Conservation Closure – Chris Atkin**

Chris indicated that the last minutes of the moose committee summarize things pretty well. Nothing really new to report. Conservation closures are effective, but some people may have thought it was a total closure for the entire GHA. Education was probably effective. Big test will be in the fall.

Plan to increase officers and patrols (daytime and night) in the fall.

Signage – some of the bigger signs are up. More signs are going in. Problem with frozen ground this spring.

There was a question of whether anyone is asking MB Conservation how long the closure will be in place for? No. People more interested in where they can hunt.

What is the target number and how is hunting reintroduced? Timelines for recovery will be better understood once population survey is done.

Will \$ be available for survey this winter? Probably. Estimates process going on this week. The \$190K from last year (from hunting tags for moose surveys) should be still there for this year.

Hollow Water FN is interested in GHA 17A and the potential impacts of road decommissioning in GHA26

What will happen with the wolf incentive program? It will still be in place this year.

What is the status of the letter to minister that was sent last year? Maybe the CCMM should write another letter, as a reminder of commitment for moose surveys, establishing a moose population target in order to reintroduce hunting in a sustainable manner.

Managed moose hunting concept – Rene Brker indicated that this was developed several years ago and now would probably a good opportunity for FN to explore with MB Conservation again.

### **New Moose Collaring Funding – Kelly Leavesley**

2 moose were collared this year. 2 more collars are in the office. A proposal was written last year for a moose collaring project. The proposal was made to the Endangered Species and Biodiversity Fund, with a view that our moose are a local population in threat of extirpation. Proposal went in but no money left in the fund. End of fiscal year, MB Conservation heard that SDIF had unexpended \$. Kelly indicated that the moose collaring proposal has been approved for \$25K from SDIF. Collaring would occur this winter. This could be seed money to raise more funding.

### **Next Meeting**

June 28 at the Winnipeg River Learning Centre