



Committee for Cooperative Moose Management
Meeting Minutes
November 24, 2016
Winnipeg River Learning Centre, Pine Falls

Present:

Brian Kotak (MBMF)	Jim Hoard (Pinawa Game & Fish)
Kelly Leavesley (MBSD)	Cam Neurenburg (MB Wildlife Federation)
Earl Simmons (MBSD)	Stu Jansson (LdB Fur Council)
Ivan Lavoie (Sagkeeng FN member)	Gerry Arbez (MB Wildlife Federation)
Bob Austman (MBMF)	Garf Bushie (Hollow Water FN)
Neil Guimond (Sagkeeng FN member)	Mike Adey (MLOA)
Ken Rebizant (MBSD)	Daniel Dupont (MBSD)

1. Introductions

All of the committee members introduced themselves. Brian mentioned that it is nice to have Hollow Water First Nation back on the committee and welcomed Garf back.

2. Review/Additions to the Agenda

Brian reviewed the agenda.

Brian indicated that William Young thought that it would be good for the CCMM to meet with the Moose Matters group. He suggested this winter, once the winter roads are open.

Brian also pointed out the new issue of Moose News that has been published. People are free to take as many copies as they like.

As Earle needed to leave the meeting early, he provided an update on enforcement. 14 people charged for night hunting or hunting off highways or in closed area. 7 vehicles seized. None were in possession of game animals. 4 charges were related to hunting in closed area of GHA26 (Earle will double check this number to ensure that it is accurate). Provincially, 44 people charged for night hunting. How many were band vs non-band members? Of the 14 individuals charged in the eastern region, 10 were First Nation. They were hunting from the highway in the closure area.

GHA17 fall moose hunt – local air carriers and lodges report 66 moose harvested (ball park estimate). 3 of 12 non-residents got a moose. Most info came from Blue Water and Adventure Air. Harvest was up this year slightly.

GHA17A – between 6 and 10 moose were harvested. No numbers from GHA17B

The officers put in a real good effort regarding patrols and enforcement. Enforcement activity increased significantly this year. Lots of dialogue with people as well. Dialogue was well received with the hunters.

How many moose were taken in close area of GHA 26? No new info (5 moose mentioned at last meeting).

Cam asked if there has been a request for additional resources in 2017 to increase enforcement activities? Earle indicated that no request has been made. Budgets are very tight. They could always use more resources.

3. Minutes from the October 13, 2016 Meeting

Brian informed the committee that a letter was sent to the Minister (cc'd to Wowchuk) with our recommendations following the GHA26 moose survey. Rick Wowchuk left Brian a voicemail message. He would like to discuss the recommendations and activities of the committee. It was suggested that we invite him to attend our next meeting.

Kelly indicated the correct spelling for Allister Bath. This needs to be corrected in the last meeting minutes.

Signage along highway regarding conservation closure near Bissett. Any action? Unsure. Kelly will determine if this has been done, as Earle has already left the meeting.

Ceremonial hunt in western Manitoba – we do not have much information. There is a lot of information on Facebook and the MB hunting forum. The accuracy of this information is not known. We need accurate information on what occurred. Ron was to provide us with information. We need clarification on what happened before we endorse it. We need to understand the importance of the ceremonial hunt and why that particular area was chosen. There needs to be an educational component.

Ken will get us some clarification for the next meeting. The CCMM not opposed to the concept of the ceremonial hunt.

Bob: would like photos of the youth that participated (gutting, quartering, etc). Good to use in presentations. Ivan and Neil mentioned the Harvest Days in Sagkeeng, that were held every September. Contact Gary Swampy. Hundreds of youth participate. The event is held at the pow wow grounds. Sponsored by the school. Garf indicated that Hollow Water had a “On the Land” program, but it is not active any more.

4. Update on MBMF and Provincial Funding to Moose Committee

Brian indicated that a letter was sent to the Minister of SD, requesting a meeting. The letter was sent in late October. There has been no response from the Minister's office. Brian called the Minister's office to ask if the Minister had received the letter. The secretary said that the letter was received but has not been passed over to the Minister yet. Brian would like a meeting with the Minister before Christmas. Brian also informed

the committee that the MBMF has requested a limited amount of core funding from the province. Brian does not know the status of that request. If this core funding is not in place by April 1, 2017, the MBMF will be forced to terminate all employment contracts with their staff. The MBMF will continue to operate, at a greatly reduced level, but with only volunteers.

Stu asked if invasive species could be a funding opportunity for the MBMF? The province has invested lot of resources into boat cleaning stations. Brian indicated that he is doubtful that the province would be interested in providing funding for the MBMF to do outreach on invasive species. The department has almost no budget as it is for their own staff to do this.

Kelly informed the CCMM that a proposal has been submitted to Treasury Board for the operations of the CCMM. The money is already identified in the department's budget, but Treasury Board approval is needed to give the authority to spend it. Also asked for additional money for speakers, support of the western moose committee, etc. Asked for authority to spend up to \$30K. Waiting for a response from Treasury Board.

5. Updates from MB Sustainable Development

Moose collaring project: successful funding application from Wildlife Enhancement Fund. Memorial University received the funding agreement this past week. Project will look at habitat use versus availability (resource selection function), predation rates, how many moose do we miss during aerial surveys. Collared moose help to estimate sightability. Another grant (in preparation) could provide another 15 collars. We could end up with 50-60 collared moose in GHA 26. Allows us to look at causes of mortality. Need to communicate this project with the communities. Collars will be spread out in high, medium and low density moose areas. In the past, we have focused only in high moose density areas. Will deploying some of the collars this winter. The rest the following year. Hydro has provided 15 collars to Memorial University already. These will probably be deployed next year.

Also establishing a protocol for what to do when someone comes across a dead moose (collared and non-collared) with respect to reporting and collection of samples for analysis. This would be a province-wide protocol.

Kelly mentioned that with so many collard moose in GHA 26, we need to communicate that we would prefer that people do not harvest collared moose. If a collared moose is shot, people need to return the collar to MB Sustainable Development. Only cow moose will be collared, so hopefully these will not be shot. It is a big investment to do this study, so we need to ensure that the collars stay on the animals for the duration of the study.

Planning on 24 moose collars and 14 wolf collars to be deployed this winter (Feb 2017). The protocol for how to handle a moose mortality should be ready in Jan 2017 (before collars are deployed). Stu asked if lay people help with collecting data? Yes.

Is Memorial University doing a parallel study in Newfoundland? No. This is only being done in MB. Daniel's supervisor is at Memorial University and has done similar work prior in MB.

Cam congratulated Daniel on receiving approval for the project. The data generated will be invaluable. Daniel acknowledged that the letters of support from CCMM and LdB Wildlife Association were likely important in the project's approval process.

Ken mentioned that one of SD mandated items is to have citizen involvement in aerial surveys. There will be moose surveys in Ducks and Porcupine Mountains this winter. Letters have gone out to invite FN and Metis communities and a Game & Fish Association to participate. There will be a training and assessment process. The training is expensive: \$5,000 per person (\$30K in total). A lot of the cost is related to helicopter time. The training is important and is part of capacity building. Potentially, a person could help out for 5 years. There is also training for SD personnel as well. There was a question about whether this is the wisest use of SD money, as budgets are tight and \$5,000 per person is pretty expensive. SD commented that there is a need for accurate information and need involvement of the public. Everyone must be trained to the same level. There will be classroom training as well as flight training for all participants. It will be held Dec 15-17, 2016 in Swan River (provided there is adequate snow).

Also doing a moose survey in GHA21 (in Interlake).

Cam asked about the process to determine who takes part in surveys. Discussed internally within Wildlife Branch, also regional wildlife staff and department executive (Assistant Deputy Minister/Deputy Minister).

Kelly mentioned that in the Sandy River area, SD worked with Ivan to try and live trap a wolf to re-collar a particular pack. Tried for 3 weeks. Unfortunately, very little wolf activity. It is a small pack. Was to replace a lost collar (there was something wrong with the collar – possibly a severed wire). Will try to replace the collars this winter that aren't working.

From last meeting there were 2 ideas that came up: Role of bears in predation on moose, as well as the value of Traditional Area Advisory Committees. 2 projects being proposed for Aboriginal Species at Risk (prevention stream): Ivan - start pilot project on assessing affect of bear predation on moose, through bear scat collection and analysis. Partners need to provide 20% either in cash or in-kind. Sagkeeng would submit the application (will submit one for Fish & Wildlife Enhancement Fund too). Kelly, Garf and Wayne Moneyas have talked about setting up a moose advisory committee in HW, with student interns. Would involve student interns attending meetings in the community, take minutes and produce newsletters. They would also attend our CCMM meetings. Important to share information within communities. Would provide youth with incentive to enter university programs in natural resources.

Discussion about Moose Matters committee. There are 2 moose committees in eastern MB. Need to avoid duplication. There was frustration expressed that our CCMM has been operating at a snail's pace. Things seem to get bogged down. Progress is slow. Brian agreed and indicated that we need to really get moving on completing the GHA26 moose status report and recommendations. We need to focus the next few meetings on the recommendations. Need to get the status report and recommendations in to SD before the end of February 2017. Kelly indicated that it is a balancing act to have good stakeholder input with putting recommendations forward, but that she felt that there has been great progress made by the CCMM. Lots of work has been done over the years.

Cam indicated that we need to focus on the objective of helping the moose situation.

6. Documented Update on Consultation with East Side Communities

Cam mentioned that he would like a summary from MB SD of consultations that have taken place, what was discussed, schedule for completing consultations with respect to the 300m reserved on new east side road. Sections of the road have already been upgraded, and new sections will be built. The closures to protect moose should have been put in place years ago, before the east side road project began construction. MB SD acknowledged that the consultations are a slow process, and are hoping to have consultations done by end of March.

MB SD reiterated that it has been talking to communities for many years. The vast majority are in favor of 300m road refuge on east side road. However, difficult to set up meetings with all communities. Takes time.

7. CCMM Position on MWF “Ban Night Hunting in Manitoba” Campaign

Cam discussed how the MWF initiated the Ban Night Hunting Campaign a few years ago. Things seem to be out of control in southwest MB. Saskatchewan's approach was to draw a line on the map, with no night hunting in agricultural area of the province. There is a difference between safe night hunting in some areas versus unsafe practices.

Ivan indicated that there are different types of night hunting. Need to differentiate between “ban all night hunting” and “night hunting in areas where it is unsafe”.

Need to differentiate between non-populated, non-agricultural areas and other areas where safety is a larger concern.

Neil indicated that there are already laws in place. No one can hunt on/along a numbered highway or on private property (without land owner permission). There are laws in place.

Cam stressed that unfortunately, this does not apply to municipal roads.

What are the safe practices for night hunting for FN people?

Neil stated that in Sagkeeng, the community can make its own laws (this was ratified in October). Have drafted a new election code. Would like to draft up harvesting laws. Need funding to have community meetings. Would like the provincial courts to apply those community laws. Could include safe practices for night hunting.

Need to define what is safe and what is not. People have differing opinions on what is considered safe. Courts cannot defend or prosecute when the law is ambiguous. Officers also cannot enforce when law is ambiguous.

Is this a safety issue or sustainability issue? Cam stated that the night hunting issue is both, as it not only affects public safety, but also the long-term sustainability of moose populations (especially in areas where the moose population is not doing well).

8. Draft Recommendations for GHA 26 Moose Status Report

The committee did not have a chance to review and revised the draft recommendations due to time constraints. We will focus on these at the next meeting.

9. Project Planning for 2017

FWEF application possibilities: co-management engagement or development of land-based wildlife monitoring.

Gerry asked if SD staff have been involved in determining what co-management could look like?

Mike mentioned that MLOA has a hunter and angler education fund. Deadline in January. Please take a look at their website.

10. Next Meeting

Dec 20, 2016 at Winnipeg River Learning Centre at 5:00 (note: this will be slightly earlier than usual)