



Committee for Cooperative Moose Management  
Meeting Minutes (Final Version)  
October 9, 2014  
Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship  
Lac du Bonnet, MB

**Present:**

Kelly Leavesley (MCWS)	Stu Jansson (MB Trappers Assoc.)
Brian Kotak (MBMF)	Gerry Arbez (MB Wildlife Federation)
Cam Neurenburg LdB Wildlife Assoc.)	Ken Rebizant (MCWS)
Bob Austman (MBMF)	Orton Ramsay (Black River FN)
Ivan Lavoie (Sagkeeng FN member)	Neil Guimond (Sagkeeng FN member)
Jim Hoard (Pinawa Game & Fish)	Ernest McPherson (Black River FN)
Vince Keenan (MBMF)	Jim Roth (Univ. of Manitoba)
Daniel Dupont (MCWS)	Paul Millan (Brokenhead River G&F Assoc)
Jasmine Langham (MB Metis Fed)	Earle Simmons (MCWS)

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

**Additions to the Agenda** – none

**Minutes from the May 8, 2014 Meeting** –

Add Ken Rebizant to list of attendees. Consultation in Sagkeeng not mentioned in minutes, and needs to be mentioned as this was discussed at the moose meeting. Neil feels that there was not consultation in Sagkeeng, only an information meeting at an assembly. The community members did not feel this was consultation, only information presented.

Q. What is a consultation process in Sagkeeng? Legal requirement is only related to government talking to Chief and Council. Community members indicate that consultation must include the members of the nation, not just a selected few. Too many bad decisions are made without proper knowledge of the community. Neil mentioned that Chief and Council have no control over the rights of individual FN person.

**Stable Isotope Study**

Jim Roth from the University of Manitoba made a presentation on the results of the stable isotope study to date. The study looks at reconstructing diets of wolves, using stable isotopes, which can be thought of as chemical tracers based on the idea that “you are what you eat”.

Can be used to reflect longer term diet (in terms of months)

Jim explained the technique using lynx as an example. Feed on snowshoe hare and squirrels. Also used an example of wolves from Saskatchewan.

Scats can provide a list of species that are being eaten, but not their proportion in the diet

In eastern MB wolves prey on moose, deer, caribou, snowshoe hare, beaver  
They have tissue samples from all of those species over multiple years, although they don't have many hare samples.

Hair represents diet during hair growth (summer). Muscle turns over every 2-3 months, and represents the average diet over last few months (fall and winter for trapped wolves)  
Winter diet results: deer, moose, beaver, hare, caribou (in descending order of proportion)

Jim also separated wolf data: northern and southern part of GHA26

South: mostly deer are eaten. North: both deer and moose (there is a possibility that wolves could be traveling south to feed on deer, then go back north for moose). Reflects difference in deer and moose distribution in GHA

Summer diet: equal amounts of moose, deer and beaver (overall GHA average). But varies by year.

Jim would like information from committee to explain results. Is there a change in trapper effort for beavers from year to year? Difference in year to year beaver populations also due to water conditions.

Q. Do you have black bear samples for the study? No samples have been run. Black bear are tricky as they are very omnivorous.

### **Collars**

As of today, 5 collars on moose. 4 collars on wolves.

Had to retrieve 2 collars this past winter and summer. 1 collar dropped off (this was planned). 1 mortality (cow was killed by wolves).

### **Wolf Kill Site Investigations**

Use collars to identify when movements slow down (either resting or feeding). Collars collect data every 2 hours.

Have lost contact with 2 of the collars. 1 working collar in each pack right now.

Take moose femur samples for marrow.

Found 1 bear kill site, but bear might have been shot and died from wound. Wolves then scavenged.

In the spring, the wolves were eating a lot of beaver (Garner-Flintstone pack). Other pack: beaver, but also moose too. In spring/summer is when beavers are dispersing.

## **Introduction to Moose Population Modeling**

Starting point of 823 moose (plus/minus 18%). Modeling the growth of the population. Feb 2013 survey estimate was within the predicted population level by the model. Currently, model would predict about 1800 moose in 2015 survey.

Model uses a variety of parameters to estimate population. Birth rate, predation rate, etc.

Will wait until they have survey data from Feb 2015 to do the modeling.

Q. What is the effect of bear predation on spring moose calves? Hank does not feel it is as significant as wolves. MN came up with the same conclusion. Discussion on the role of bear predation on moose. This is something that we don't have good data on. Do not have a good handle on the status of the bear population. Bear populations are difficult to survey for. Suggestion to look at information from outfitters. Outfitter Declaration Forms.

We haven't spent a lot of time discussing habitat. Fire of 2011 in Rainy Lake area has been good for moose within the last 3 years. We need to address habitat, as fire suppression and lack of harvesting may lead to a mature forest with little valuable moose habitat.

MC is looking at adjusting strategies on fire in more remote areas (e.g., Atikaki)

Some committee members have suggested that the provincial policy on banning logging in parks has been a deterrent to providing moose habitat

Would be good to look the moose habitat modeling for Tembec 20 year plan. While a forest harvest scenario was run and documented, the no harvest scenario was run in the model, but not documented. The forest harvest scenario was constrained to maintain the current amount of moose habitat to +/- 10%. Vince to present at next moose meeting?

What population level can the current habitat support? What is the carrying capacity?

What are the needs of the FN communities in terms of number of moose? This needs to be considered when considering future moose hunting limits.

Need to identify a population target level for the moose population.

The committee needs to put out another issue of Moose News. Need to communicate the work over the last few years. Before and after aerial survey. Newsletter should talk about the cooperation. Put in band offices, assemblies. Good to have presentations as well as newsletters.

Neil: have a meeting in communities to provide an update survey number. Hold meetings prior to next falls hunting season

Modeling: As an example, if we resume hunting (150 moose) in 2014 would have a larger negative impact on moose recovery than waiting an extra couple of years before introducing hunting again.

### **Winter Projects**

Moose aerial survey in GHA26, to take place over 4 weeks

Wolf survey will be done (\$ have been allocated). Alaska trackers not available.

2 moose collars refurbished and will be put on moose this winter. Suggestion, maybe Maskwa Lake area. Birch Point?

4 more wolf collars this winter

Got a \$6,000 donation from Safari Club International (towards 1 wolf collar)

Other potential source: HSP. Used to be only for Species at Risk. There is a prevention stream for the funding which could be used for moose. Expression of Interest for the HSP is due tomorrow. If successful, we will send in a full proposal. Funding would be used to support the committee, enhance tissue collection, participation in field work for committee members, helicopter support to get into kill sites, harvest rates by local communities (contracts to communities, through individuals or TAACs): both historic and current.

Neil: suggestion of building into proposal where communities can create their own laws to govern hunting. Need to figure out whether this would fit into the funding criteria.

Grand Council Treaty 3 has such a document

### **GHA 17 Reconfiguration**

Bloodvein north to a little north of Poplar River. Construction of all-weather road from Bloodvein to Berens is proceeding. Bridge over Bloodvein will be done within a month. Application going in for Berens to Poplar River in 2015. Pressure to complete road. All roads are relevant to GHA boundaries.

ESRA doing monitoring based on a 20km width on either side of the all weather road. Assuming that the biggest change in hunting pressure, etc. will be on western side of GHA, where all weather road is.

Caribou are also on the western side of the GHA. Not necessarily great moose habitat. Highest moose densities are on east side of GHA (although not a lot of good data).

Kelly showed a proposed north-south line that would divide the GHA into an eastern and western half.

This proposal could be operational in 2015.

The division of the GHA into 2 areas is more for licensed hunters. No impact on FN. Would help also facilitate more frequent aerial surveys

It is an administrative change, but will make management better in the future.

Could impact the licensed hunter if the western part of the GHA is off limits to moose hunting.

### **Road Refuge Meetings**

Preliminary meetings are being held with communities. Consultation plans being developed with communities for extension of Chief George Barker wildlife refuge to follow road up to Berens River. Not an emergency situation. Province being proactive. Not all communities have been contacted and still need to meet with MB Metis Federation.

Timelines: would like it to be in place in time for use of all weather road. Needs to occur soon, or it will be a situation like the Rice River Road.

### **Update on Manitoba Model Forest**

Brian advised that the Model Forest has not been successful in attracting new funding. Have met with the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship several times over the last few years, stressing that without funding support from the Province, the outlook for the MBMF is bleak. If no new funding is found in this fiscal year, the office and staff time will be cut back significantly in 2015. The MBMF office will likely only be open 1 day per week in 2015. Even at that rate, the MBMF will run out of money sometime in early 2016.

### **Next Meeting**

Sometime in March 2015. Will discuss workshop requirements.

In the meantime, publish a new edition of Moose News