



Committee for Cooperative Moose Management  
Meeting Minutes (Final Version)  
October 13, 2016  
MB Sustainable Development Office, Lac du Bonnet

**Present:**

Brian Kotak (MBMF)	Jim Hoard (Pinawa Game & Fish)
Ron Missyabit (MBSD)	Kelly Leavesley (MBSD)
Earl Simmons (MBSD)	Stu Jansson (LdB Fur Council)
Ivan Lavoie (Sagkeeng FN member)	Gerry Arbez (MB Wildlife Federation)
Bob Austman (MBMF)	Ernest McPherson (Black River FN)
Neil Guimond (Sagkeeng FN member)	Mike Adey (MLOA)
Paul Millan (Brokenhead River G&F)	Trevor Barker (MB Hydro)

**1. Opening Prayer & Introductions –**

Ernest opened the meeting with a prayer. All of the committee members introduced themselves.

**2. Review/Additions to the Agenda**

Brian reviewed the agenda.

Stu informed the committee that he is no longer representing the MTA on the CCMM. The MTA office in LdB has closed. Stu is now here on behalf of the LdB Fur Council. The CCMM is in favour of having the LdB Fur Council on the CCMM, with Stu as their representative. Stu has a long history of participating on the committee. Rob Andruchuk, is the Zone 1 Director and could represent the MTA on the moose committee. Brian to contact Rob inviting him to sit on the committee as the MTA representative. Kelly talked to Garf Bushie today and Hollow Water First Nation interested in participating on the committee again. This is great news. Brian to send an invitation to Garf.

As Earl needed to leave the meeting soon, he gave an update on the moose harvest this fall, as well as enforcement.

GHAs 17, 17A, 17B – moose harvest was up compared to previous years. Success rate was up (licensed hunters, mostly fly in). Will get specific numbers for next meeting.

Closure area (GHA 26: September 11 to today): MB Sustainable Development stepped up patrols in the closure area. 5 moose taken in the closed area this fall. 1 cow, 4 unknown. North of Translicense Rd on Nopiming Trail (likely shot off the road). 1 rights-based individual charged. Talked to 75 people (both hunters and others) in GHA

26 during this period. GHA 26 is a priority for the department. Gerry thanked Earl and his officers for their enforcement effort. It is making a big difference.

How many moose taken in open area of GHA26? No indication of any moose taken in open area this fall.

Paul Millan stressed that there should be mandatory reporting of moose harvest for everyone, as it is important that we have accurate information on the actual harvest.

Ivan indicated that better signage is needed on the highway near Bissett. Difficult to know where the closure starts and stops on the north side of the highway in proximity of the Rainy Lake Rd. MB Sustainable Development will look into it.

### **3. Minutes from the June 16, 2016 Meeting**

Brian to write the letter to Minister of SD regarding the committee's recommendations following the 2016 moose survey in GHA 26.

### **4. Update on MBMF and Provincial Funding to Moose Committee**

Brian informed the committee that through our MLA, the MBMF has requested core funding to the MBMF. A similar request has been sent to Jim Carr (Minister of Natural Resources Canada). Without core funding, the MBMF will not have enough money left in their bank account to have an office or staff early in the next fiscal year. Brian also indicated that he will be writing a letter to the Minister of Sustainable Development requesting a meeting and discussion regarding how the MBMF could assist the government in meeting its commitment around developing a wildlife co-management model in the province.

Kelly provided an update to the committee regarding potential funding from the province to the moose committee. A proposal is currently in the works for \$10,000 in funding to help pay for the committee expenses and for the MBMF to continue to administer the committee work. This still needs Treasury Board approval.

### **5. Thoughts on International Moose Conference in Brandon**

Ernest thought that it was an interesting conference. There was a field trip to Riding Mountain National Park. Ernest said there are a lot moose there. He indicated that he does not understand why First Nations can not hunt there. He also mentioned that people at BRFN have been patient with the closure in GHA 26, but that his community members are wondering when hunting will be opened up again. Moose is an important food resource for the community.

Ernest also asked why are there trail cameras on the Black River commuter road. Trevor: part of monitoring for the new transmission line. Ernest was upset that the community

was not notified when clearing of the ROW started. Trevor indicated that Hydro had sent letters to Chief & Council. However, Hydro did not receive any response.

Kelly mentioned that there were people of all kinds of groups (industry, FN, gov'ts) from all over the world at the moose conference in Brandon. Many jurisdictions are experiencing declines in moose. Many jurisdictions also have a common suite of issues. Seems that parasites could be more common and may play an important role in moose decline (e.g., in Minnesota).

Trevor mentioned that even Saskatchewan is now experiencing a decline in moose.

The Committee for Cooperative Moose Management sponsored Neil and Ernest to attend the conference

About 275 people attended the conference.

Allister Bath, (a Social Scientist from Memorial University) spoke at the conference and gave examples of where he has worked with local people on sustainable wildlife management all over the world. He talked a lot about people's perspectives and how their perspectives are different on the same issue. He is very good at getting people to work together, and perhaps the committee should consider bringing him here for a workshop.

Neil indicated that our committee is on the right track by including a variety of people. He also thought that Allister was very good. However, many speakers at the conference talked at too high a level. Was interesting that all the speakers spoke about common issues.

Did any speakers identify solutions? No, people still trying to grapple with what the problems are.

CCMM could circulate the abstracts from the conference. Brian to check the website to get abstracts.

There was a question about whether the western moose group still active? No, but there are people that are interested. That committee needs a leader/champion. Maybe our committee should have a meeting with the western committee.

Co-management is a big objective of the provincial government. Could be an important role for the CCMM. The CCMM has been working towards co-management for a long time. We just have not been calling it "co-management".

Communications are very important to inform communities about issues. The new Moose Matters committee is very good at communications and getting the info back to their communities. Our Moose News is an important vehicle for communication.

Citizen science is important. Get local people involved. There were some presentations at the conference on integrating information from hunters. Perhaps this could be a Wildlife Enhancement Fund project proposal?

There was a discussion about a project that someone heard about concerning the use of diatomaceous earth as a way to reduce winter ticks, and whether the committee should undertake such a project. However, winter ticks are not an issue here in the east. Maybe more appropriate in western MB.

There was a question about where the moose hunting closures are in western MB. Kelly to send Brian a map showing moose hunting closures in MB (put in a future issue of Moose News)

## **6. Process to Complete Recommendations Section of GHA 26 Moose Status Report**

We have been discussing the recovery of the moose population in GHA 26 for several years now and have come up with many ideas to regrow the moose population. Many of these ideas would make good recommendations that can be submitted to the government as part of our GHA26 moose status report. To speed up process, Brian suggested that he could draft up recommendations based on ideas and brainstorming from previous meetings and workshops. He would then send these draft recommendations out to committee members prior to next meeting. It is much easier to work through the recommendations if people have something to look at.

Committee members thought this was a good idea.

## **7. Updates from MB Sustainable Development**

Ron Missyabit discussed a ceremonial moose hunt that was permitted by Province in the Duck Mountains this fall. There was a request from indigenous youth to conduct a ceremonial moose hunt in the Duck Mountains (Pine Creek FN). Youth approached the Grand Chief. A meeting with province was held and a written proposal was done by the students. This is the first request received since the closure. A permit was issued by the province, with a number of conditions. They harvested one bull moose. Donated most of the moose meat to elders in the community and some for a banquet at the Aboriginal Veterans (Remembrance Day). Grand Chief put a report on his Facebook account. Was a good experience for the youth. There was push back on the MB Hunter's Forum. Ron suggested that a letter from this committee go to Minister in support of the ceremonial moose hunt. Ron to send info to us.

## **8. Funding Applications and Project Planning for Fall/Winter of 2016/17**

Funding – last year, we applied to HSP and received \$50K. Some activities could not be implemented due to timing difficulties. This included harvest interviews with indigenous communities. Could not start these in the last project. Applied again to HSP. Not successful, but they have put our proposal in a special pile in case \$ come free by year

end. This funding is through the Prevention Stream of HSP. Applications for next year are due in November this year. The proposals are very detailed and we are not sure we can get something in place this year. There is also an Aboriginal stream of HSP.

Application submitted to FWEF this summer by Daniel. Was approved this week. \$120K (full amount). Will include putting 20 collars on moose in GHA 26, plus capture company costs. The data will help look at habitat use by moose in GHA 26. Trevor indicated that Hydro has excess collars in storage (from caribou work, and that the collars are no longer being used). Hydro has donated 15 collars to the program in GHA 26. MB SD will put information out in the communities about the large moose collaring project.

Ivan stated that we should have collars on moose calves. Need to know what is happening to the calves. Need to understand impact of bears on moose. Can get info on historical bear numbers from ODFs.

Can moose calves be collared? Yes, but collaring may lead to increased calf mortality (due to abandonment by cows). Minnesota DNR experienced this during a large collaring project that they did.

There was a question about what is the benefit of the wolf study that will be done in GHA 26? How will the info be used for managing moose? The project will look at predation rates on moose. Also will look at whether linear corridors affect wolves and predation success.

Other ideas for funding? Salt licks – trail cameras. Co-management (Aboriginal HSP stream). A proposal to get people involved in decision-making. Involvement of communities. Defining co-mgt. Meetings of CCMM, workshops in communities. Bring in Allister Bath. Have to start from an agreement that it is about the conservation of moose, not anyone's rights (licensed, rights-based). Harvest interviews. Training on aerial surveys for FN and other stakeholders. Capacity building type of proposal.

Not likely enough time to put together a proposal to HSP before their November deadline.

## **9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Nov 24, either at the MB Sustainable Development office in LdB or in Pine Falls (Winnipeg River Learning Centre). Brian to send out email reminder.

## **10. Closing Prayer**

Ernest closed the meeting with a prayer.