

TGIRT-EIJB Valcanton Villebois FMU 85-51

Minutes of the **SIXTEENTH MEETING**

Held on August 29, 2019 in the conference room of the municipal offices of
Beaucanton



Gouvernement régional
d'Eeyou Istchee Baie-James
Eeyou Istchee James Bay
Regional Government

APPROVED ON: DECEMBER 12, 2019

ATTENDING

Delegates:

Marie-Ève Sigouin – RYAM

Nelson Tremblay – Locality of Valcanton (from 10:20 AM)

Guests:

Sonia Légaré – Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs

Observers:

Patrick Paiement — RYAM

Isabelle Fortin — Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs

Elaine Cyr — Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs

Johanne Morasse – Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government (from 10:20 AM)

Martin Fillion – Animator – Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government

TGIRT-EIJB VILLEBOIS-VALCANTON SIXTEENTH MEETING

1. Call to order, introductions

The animator welcomes all participants. The meeting begins without the quorum. No decision can be made for the time being.

2. Reading and approval of the agenda

The animator reads the agenda. It is asked to add two items under "Miscellaneous":

- Caribou project – Environment Canada
- Change of standard — FSC certification

Following item 6 and upon arrival of a second delegate, on a motion by Mrs. Marie-Ève Sigouin, duly seconded by Mr. Nelson Tremblay, it is unanimously agreed to approve the agenda with the requested additions.

3. Reading, follow-up and approval of the minutes of the meeting held on June 20, 2019

With the absence of at least two delegates who took part in this meeting, the minutes cannot be approved. The approval of the minutes will be postponed to a future meeting.

4. Correspondence

A correspondence was received from Mines Selbaie regarding the phytocide spraying operations. The members review it and wonder about the legality of using phytocides to combat competing vegetation in the TGIRT territory. The MFFP will make some verifications of the legislation.

5. Follow-up on the issues

a) Issue regarding the aesthetic quality of the landscape

The animator informs the members that the VOIC sheet on the aesthetic quality of the landscape and the mapping of the issue were placed in the public section of the TGIRT. The members comment that it is not obvious that it is a link to review the entire issue.

The MFFP representatives mention that in other regions, the term VOIC is being replaced by "Issue Solution". The members propose using this new wording to indicate the issue in the public section.

The animator will make the proposed changes by using the term "Issue Solution" and by improving the visibility of the issue.

6. Access lane management plan

a) Formation of the regional technical committee

Mrs. Marie-Ève Sigouin had expressed her desire to be part of the regional technical committee. At the other TGIRTs, three people also emailed to indicate their interest in being part of the regional technical committee, i.e. Mrs. Krystal Hotte, Mr. Martin Perron and Mr. Félix Plante, who are all part of the Chapais-Chibougamau TGIRT but represent different groups of users. Other delegates will be solicited shortly, including Mrs. Mireille Gravel who represents the wildlife reserve managers group. It would be interesting

to have one member from the Lebel-sur-Quévillon and Matagami TGIRTs. To this effect, Mrs. Julie Filion was solicited.

Mrs. Légaré discusses the major steps in the work of the regional technical committee. First, they will try to specify the dominant values in the various regions of the territory. As part of the work of the regional technical committee, it is supposed to hold four meetings per year. There will also be some validation work to be performed outside the meetings regarding the spatial values. The technical committee will play an advisor role. In the end, the committee will propose the closure of certain roads and the type of closure. The roads to maintain will also be proposed.

A question is raised about the type of closure that will be discussed. These are permanent closures. In the case of new roads that are planned to be closed after the forestry operations, the closure project will be subjected to the public consultations and the TGIRT even before the road is built. The difficulty in closing certain roads will be mostly related to old roads. In some cases, it will be necessary to return the road to operation in order to access the furthest sites and then close them and then reclose the road that was returned to operation.

b) Beginning of the work

Following the formation of the committee, a first meeting should take place between the end of September and mid-October. As part of this first meeting, we will discuss the values. The detection of the roads that are never anticipated to be closed and those that will be the most relevant to close will also be discussed. The members of the technical committee will be contacted shortly regarding this first meeting.

Since a second delegate joined the meeting the Animator returns to item 2 for the call to order.

7. Management strategy for the woodland caribou habitat

A PowerPoint presentation was prepared for this item. Mrs. Sonia Légaré highlights the availability of two webinars that provide some alignments on the management of the woodland caribou habitat. She starts her presentation by reminding that the strategy was announced in April. The next year will be a pivotal one for the progression of the work. Among the immediate actions to implement, there is namely the Broadback protected area to be implemented and the addition of wildlife protection officers to counter poaching. Phase 2 includes the development of the strategy and the analysis of the socio-economical impacts related to its implementation. We have done this work and are now ready to collect the available information and consult you. In regard to the notion of compromise, we have deemed it the right time to invest efforts where the chances of maintaining the caribou are better. For the moment, no decision has been made by the government but there are still orientations.

Mrs. Légaré provides a general review of the reproduction rates of the woodland caribou and its avoidance strategy regarding predators. She explains the impact of forest roads, considering the behaviour of the species. Mrs. Légaré provides a mapping description of the strategy considered, considering namely the northern limit of the commercial wood allocations and the location of the large protected areas. She introduces the notions of vast proper area (VEP), habitat under restoration and connectivity, which will condition the development of the restoration plan for the region. The mapping presented is also available in the section regarding the management strategy for the woodland caribou habitat on the MFFP website. Regarding the VEPs, there are those of Détour, Broadback, Assinica and Témiscamie. The VEPs appear on a map displayed on screen. The VEPs are the areas that are already good for the caribou and that we wish to conserve. These territories must have an area of at least 5,000 km² to support viable populations.

The objective regarding the VEPs is to support the self-sufficiency of the caribou herds by limiting the disturbance levels. To this effect we are aiming to remain under the 35% level. To reach it, we must have a large land mass, i.e. of at least 1,000 km², per VEP. Fortunately, in this region there are such land masses and large protected areas that contributed to the maintenance of the habitat. In addition, we are looking for a vegetation composition that is dominated by softwood species, old forests and the least amount of permanent infrastructures possible such as roads, and a certain connectivity between land masses. In some masses deemed sensitive a harvest

delay will be prescribed, which can vary between 100 and 150 years. The sensitive masses will be preserved as long as they contribute to the maintenance of the habitat. If they burn and thus no longer play their role, they will no longer be protected. A caribou plan must remain dynamic. The restoration zone indicates a similar objective to the VEP which is to limit the disturbance rate to 35%. However, the restoration zone corresponds to the areas disturbed beyond this limit, where restoration work should be planned. The connectivity zones allow the establishment of a link between the land masses used by the caribou. She discusses the infrastructures that have an impact on the woodland caribou, including the roads and resort areas. The strategy does not put a stop to development but to concentrate it in locations where the impact on the woodland caribou will be the lowest and will contribute the most to the social and economic expectations.

A delegate representing RYAM takes this opportunity to discuss a project that is part of their forest certification, regarding the woodland caribou (9.1 in the agenda). She puts into perspective, the context of cooperating with Ontario regarding the Détour herd, whose allocation area crosses the provincial border. Mrs. Légaré goes back to her presentation by explaining certain notions and their consideration in the strategy. Several questions are asked, namely regarding what is a minimum viable area for the herd, if means have been considered to attract the caribou back after the disturbance, the type of stand desired etc. Mrs. Légaré explains how the ecosystem management approach contributes to the maintenance of the woodland caribou habitat. She mentions the upcoming implementation of regional operational groups in the various regions of Quebec. Other questions are raised, namely regarding the management of the moose habitat. Mrs. Légaré explains that the places where the moose populations are low, they want to keep them low. She explains some clauses related to the management strategy and some operational concerns, namely regarding the permanent closure of roads. Mrs. Légaré continues by explaining the notion of residual habitat. A map of the areas that should be the subject of specific terms is displayed on screen. Mrs. Légaré provides a brief description of certain areas deemed sensitive and the approach that is planned to be applied there.

Various maps are displayed on screen and explained. Mrs. Légaré presents a table of the anticipated impacts on the forest allocations per forest management unit. On average, for the entire EIJB territory, the planned reduction is about 7%. The impact on the forest potential will be greater in some FMU, even above 40% in the eastern portion of the territory. The members pay a particular attention to this portion of the presentation that is related to the possible impacts on the forest potential.

The deployment of the strategy for our territory is a major challenge due to the mosaic logging regime that is present in almost all forest management units. During the next year, we are planning to work closely with the Cree and economic partners to find viable solutions for all. Mrs. Légaré briefly explains the distinction between the agglomerated logging and the mosaic logging and why the first one seems more appropriate in terms of a strategy to restore the woodland caribou habitat. Visually, the agglomerated logging which leaves only 20% of residual forests reveals a more shocking image. It is however a permanent residual forest. It is a challenge to have the approval of such an approach compared to the current mosaic logging approach. A delegate raises some operational questions, namely in regards to the use of temporary infrastructures. Mrs. Légaré provides some possible solutions but she insists on the fact that the development of a good caribou plan will require its development in cooperation with the Cree, the BGAs, the TGIRTs and the other stakeholders and interested parties. She comes back to the road planning in regards to an eventual caribou plan. It would be necessary, among other things, to reduce the quantity of roads, even if it increases the transportation distance. Tests are taking place in the Côte-Nord region to determine how the caribou will react to the application of certain conditions. We are eagerly expecting the results of these tests.

Mrs. Légaré ends her presentation by reviewing the future steps in the development of a caribou plan and the stakeholders who will be involved in the various stages. We are planning to work with the Cree, the economic partners and the other interest groups, including the TGIRTs, independently at first since we will not necessarily be discussing the same aspects with each of these groups. However, there will come a time during the exercise where it will become appropriate to reunite all of these groups around one table. Mrs. Légaré asks the members how they wish to be informed and consulted, and how often. The objective with the TGIRTs is to establish a dialogue. The animator takes the opportunity to explain the latest changes made in the members section.

8. Request for road closure – Fénélon sector

The animator mentions a presentation of this project to the TGIRT in 2016. This project is being brought back to the TGIRT for consultation. The RYAM delegate explains that it is part of an objective to re-establish the woodland caribou habitat. She mentions the Valrenne project of two years ago. She expresses a desire to see the planned consultation process for this type of project be quicker. She locates the Fénélon area project geographically and states that the project aims for a permanent closure. They wish to dismantle the affected roads and return them to production followed by the removal of the temporary crossing. The road is about 3 km in length.

The members raise a few operational questions related to the road closure procedure, which should be started even before the construction, at the planning stage. The MFFP observer mentions that it is now possible. The delegates have no comments. For the approval by the TGIRT, the animator asks for a proposer and seconder.

On a motion by Mrs. Marie-Ève Sigouin, duly seconded by Mr. Nelson Tremblay, it is unanimously agreed to accept the road closure request, in the Fénélon area, as presented.

9. Miscellaneous

a) Caribou project – Environment Canada

This item was discussed during the presentation of item 7.

b) Standard change – FSC certification

The RYAM delegate informs the members who will pass to the FSC forestry certification starting in 2020. They are preparing for this change. This standard is neither stricter nor softer than the SFI standard. There are some differences in the requirements but the main principles remain relatively the same. The compliance to this standard motivates the business to get involved in several projects, including the reestablishment of the woodland caribou habitat.

c) Departure of the MFFP observer, wildlife sector

The MFFP observer informs the members the Mr. Julien Second will soon be leaving his position and will no longer sit at the TGIRTs. It is not anticipated that his seat will be filled at this time. The requests related to wildlife can still be directed to the wildlife sector by the current MFFP observers.

d) Harvest operations in Val-Paradis

A RYAM observer informs the members that harvest operations are taking place in Val-Paradis, just behind the school. The company will be communicating with the school authorities to ensure that the wood transportation is carried out as safely as possible.

10. Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 12:15 PM.

On a motion by Mrs. Marie-Ève Sigouin, duly seconded by Mr. Nelson Tremblay, it is unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

ACRONYMS

BGA:	Beneficiary of a supply guarantee
BMMB:	Wood marketing board
COMEV:	Evaluation committee responsible for examining the preliminary information provided by a project promoter located in the territory covered by the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) and located south of the 55 th parallel
CRSSS:	Regional health and social services centre
CRV:	Variable retention logging
FHVC:	Forest with a high conservation value
CNG:	Cree Nation Government
EIJBRG:	Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government
MFFP:	Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
MDDEFP:	Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement de la Faune et des Parcs
PADF:	Sustainable forest management program
PAFIT:	Tactical plan for integrated forest management
PAFIO:	Operational plan for integrated forest management
PFNL:	Non-wood forest product
PRAN:	Annual program
PRAU:	Harvest permit to supply a mill
RADF:	Regulations on sustainable forest management
SÉPAQ:	Société des établissements de plein air du Québec
SOPFEU:	Société de protection des forêts contre le feu
TGIRT:	Integrated Land and Resources Management Panel
UQAC:	Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
VHR:	Off-road vehicles
VNR:	Non-harvested volumes
VO:	Value, objective
VOIC:	Value, objective, indicator, target
ATV:	All-terrain vehicle