

MUSKWA-KECHIKA ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes FINAL

Meeting Dates: October 21st and 22nd 2014

Meeting Location: University of Northern BC, Prince George

M-KAB Members Attending:

Stephanie Killam (Chair) Corrine Porter (by phone) Shawna Case (for Danny Case)

David Luff Juergen Puetter Reg Gardner Barry Holland Gavin Dirom

Johnny Mikes Wayne Sawchuk

REGRETS: Peter Stone Lana Lowe Lori Warren

GUESTS:

Madeline Maley	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Roger Graham (by phone)	Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
Jim Ladds	Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource, Recreation and Trails
Kathy Parker	UNBC
Nobi Suzuki	UNBC
Pam Wright	UNBC
Lindi Anderson	UNBC
Stephen Cameron	Moose ATV Club, Fort St John
Jeff Mohr	ATV/BC Prince George

8:30 AM

M-KAB Chair welcome and opening remarks – round table introductions

Call for additions to agenda- None

Motion to adopt: David Luff Second: Reg Gardner Adopted as presented

8:40 AM

Province of B.C.-- Update on direction and funding for M-KAB

Madeline Maley provided background information from the Province of BC on the M-KMA and the M-KAB:

- Water sustainability Act and the Williams decision are 2 of the top priorities the Province is working through.
- Core review of Agencies and Boards confirmed a role for the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board.

- M-K Legislation and Regulation doesn't fit with the current Government structure and governance model – the old Legislation/Regulation focused on planning. Today the focus is on outcomes and risk management
- Importantly, how are things different in 2014 in the Management Area as compared to 1998?

With this brief background information, the specifics for the Management Area and the Advisory Board are:

- Relationship with the Province of BC will remain the same, Kevin Kriese and Madeline Maley will be the prime contacts
- Ministry is considering have 2 Ex officio members from the Province assigned to the Advisory Board, one from the North East, one from Omineca
- Appointments and process for appointments will remain the same. Government would welcome Advisory Board recommendations for representation on the Advisory Board
- Funding for this year remains at \$50k, for 2015-16 it will be \$65k
- For 2015-16 the Ministry will have up to \$50k available per year for Advisory Board to deliver upon Work plan deliverables. Examples for this funding: guide books for resource development in the Management Area that will help with activities on the land base.
- The Vision and Wilderness definition work Advisory Board is currently undertaking is deemed important to finalize and engage ministries with this.
- Requirement for Advisory Board to get agreement with Ministry on a “go forward” plan
- Cumulative Effects Management; pilot project work has been outside of the Management Area due to the low risks there. Focus has been on high activity areas. Possibility of having the Management Area as a model for the future for CEM and integrated management decision making has not been ruled out.
- Ministry requests that the Advisory Board have several members participate on a small committee to go through process and requirement to update the M-K Legislation and Regulation. Ministry would start the process in early 2015.

After providing this update, Madeline opened the floor for discussion on this with Advisory Board members.

One of the key discussion points to be tabled for minutes:

There has to be agreement between the Province and the Advisory Board on what the Management Area is all about, coming to a common and shared understanding. Further, what is to be accomplished and how do we get there?

This is critical to do PRIOR to working on Legislation and the Regulation.

Action items:

- 1) Madeline will contact Brian Braidwood regarding previous work on M-K Regulation
- 2) Advisory Board will have several members available to participate in Legislation/Regulation review and update.
- 3) Advisory Board to finalize the Wilderness and Vision work and entertain discussions with Province on this. Table work to date with NE and Omineca groups.

Note for next Advisory Board meeting:

- it is suggested that a detailed discussion take place regarding the Province's direction for resource management and development in the Management Area.

9:15 Update on M-KAB business since last meeting:

- Tabled current budget/funding with projections to end of March. Noted that there will be enough funds for a February/March meeting.
- Review of correspondence, hand out the 2 advice letters provided to the Province
 - 1) BC Parks delay in park management plans. A response from the new ADM of Parks was to be provided for this meeting, however, nothing was available. Dani Money will be joining the meeting by phone at 8:30 Wednesday morning to update the Advisory Board on the response letter
 - 2) M-KMA Designated access routes – email response acknowledged receipt of this letter, Chris Addison will keep Advisory Board informed regarding any regulation changes.
 - 3) Letter to Kaska Dena Council regarding Bill Lux replacement
 - 4) Letter to new Chief Fort Nelson First Nation, Liz Logan
- Tabled the requirement for the Advisory Board to have a Vice Chair and Executive member – discussion that this was to be done by end of meeting.

Action item:

Corrine Porter advised she would discuss with George Miller on Kaska appointments for replacing Bill Lux along with Peter Stone's term ending March 2015. She will follow up with Stephanie.

9:40 Roger Graham, Chief Negotiator Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Roger provide a BC Government update on the status of Government to Government relationships in North East BC and with the Kaska Dena treaty negotiations.

10:15 Review of Strategic Direction & Operational Business Plan 2013/14 & 2014/15

Secretariat walked through the 12 deliverables in the SDOB plan and provided the status for each one. For several of the deliverables, a detailed discussion with working group members took place.

It was noted that the Wilderness definition and the Vision work, as highlighted earlier today by the Province is an important piece to work on over the next 4 months.

This review would set up the discussion for tomorrow's session on establishing priorities for the Advisory Board til the end of March as well as set up specifics for a new SDOB plan required to be written for the next 3 years.

11:00 Jim Ladds Ministry Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Recreation and Trails

Jim attended to follow up on Tim Bennett's email note/Executive call regarding the current status on the M-K trails/access routes. There is a need to be clear on established trails and the designated access routes established under the Wildlife Act Regulation.

- 7 of the M-KMA designated access routes are established trails under FLNR recreation and trails program. Jim went over the responsibilities his Ministry and staff have, but noted that staffing for the north region is very limited.
- As such, the Ministry is partnering with groups to assist with maintenance of several of the trails, most notable Redfern. Moose ATV club, represented at this meeting is working with Ministry on the Redfern trail.
- It was noted that BC Parks has its own regulations, standards and policies for trails within Parks and Protected Areas.
- FLNR is working to link close with other agencies and outdoor groups for established trails and maintenance for these trails.

Stephen Cameron, President of Moose ATV Club spoke to Advisory Board on his groups work to date and how they are interested in being involved in maintenance of trails. There are no use statistics available for these trails that he is aware of, it seems that the Redfern trail is one of the higher used trails in the M-KMA. Chowade and Christina Falls are other well used areas.

Jeff Mohr spoke about his organizations role as well and that there is a need to engage users and groups to ensure trails are managed and maintained for public recreation use. Responsible use of trails is promoted by the ATV BC organization.

ACTION:

Advisory Board recommends to stay in contact with Jim Ladds and Tim Bennett on management of M-K trails and will have the Working Group set up one or two calls between Advisory Board meetings.

1:00 PM ---UNBC Presentation on Map Work for the M-KMA - Nobi Suzuki

Nobi previously attended an Advisory Board meeting on this work and provided a thorough update by means of a power point presentation. (PP presentation will be linked to all members after the meeting on the member's web site/page)

Nobi highlighted his next steps – a need to balance the resource values with the habitat values.

Open discussion after presentation from members. Excellent work on this project. Important to present this to the Province sooner than later so that Managers are aware of this tool being developed with a goal to be used for management of the M-KMA.

UNBC Presentation: Pam Wright & Lindi Anderson

Pam introduced Lindi and her work on wilderness values in the M-KMA, this work would link with Nobli's mapping project. Lindi provided a brief power point presentation for her work that is just getting started. Her work will be over the next couple of years. (PP presentation will be posted for members on the member's website/page for referencing)

3:15 Wilderness Definition – Sections 1-4

Working group is seeking Advisory Board" agreement in principle" for Sections 1-4 of the document provided to all members. Document was sent out electronically prior to meeting and no comments were sent in.

DECISION:

- Advisory Board accepts the definition as presented and tabled in Sections 1-4.

Next Steps:

- Working group to finalize Guiding Principles and Recommendations. **Meeting set for November 19th at AME BC conference room-- Vancouver.**
- Allow Madeline Maley to provide Sections 1-4 to Manager's group and get their feedback and provide to Working group (through Secretariat)
- Working Group to provide a recommended draft to full Board as soon as possible for review/comments and approval
- Once finalized, table complete document with Provincial manager groups and set up meeting to discuss and agree on having a document in place for the M-KMA.

3:40 M-K Chair – agenda completed for today, recommend to end meeting. A review of tomorrow's agenda and what is required prior to wrapping up the fall meeting took place.

Chair recommended that the Wilderness working group begin their work for the document at close of meeting. Agreed and WG conducted their discussions until 5 pm.

October 22nd M-KAB MEETING – UNBC Prince George

Attending:

Stephanie Killam (Chair) Corrine Porter (by phone) Shawna Case (for Danny Case)
David Luff Juergen Puetter Reg Gardner Barry Holland Gavin Dirom
Johnny Mikes Wayne Sawchuk

8:00 am M-K Chair welcome and set up morning session.

Vice Chair and Executive member:

Several members nominated Corrine Porter for Vice Chair and Executive member...

Corrine Porter did not feel she would have the time required to be Vice Chair/Executive. A review of the time commitments was discussed with Corrine.

Corrine accepted the nomination for Vice Chair/Executive on a trial basis.

DECISION:

Members confirmed Executive and Vice Chair members to March 31, 2015 as:

Stephanie (Chair) Corrine (Vice Chair) David, Juergen and Wayne

8:30 BC Parks – Dani Money, Planner for North Region

Dani called into the meeting to provide update on the response letter to her ADM Lori Halls. (Lori has changed responsibilities and advised Jim Standen is the new ADM for BC Parks).

Jim's response letter was provided electronically to Stephanie late in the day October 21.

Dani will now be able to focus on the 2 park management plans for the M-KMA as her timeline is as follows:

- Redfern is in Victoria for a review, has had minor admin changes and was put into new format for park management plans.
- Northern Rocky Mtn park is being reformatted and will go to Victoria for review once done.
- Plans to go to First Nations for review by mid December, and reviewed by end of January
- Initial meeting with First Nations mid January
- Public Advisory Group for Northern Rocky Mtn February, open house end of February
- Later May to end of June to Minister for sign off.

This time line then would see the Advisory Board have a recommended final draft for their review by end of May prior to being sent to Minister.

Dani advised she will provide updates on this timeline to the Board every 2 months.

Advisory Board is glad to see these 2 plans being worked on again and encouraged Dani to meet those proposed timelines.

M-KAB Priorities to March 31, 2015

Secretariat set up flip charts to review all the work plan deliverables completed and those that are in progress and those that have been put on hold. (listed in SDOB plan)

The Advisory Board then set its priorities to the end of March:

- 1) The Wilderness and Vision work is top priority.
 - Wilderness WG has set date for next meeting and goal to have a recommended draft to Board. November 19th AME BC office in Vancouver 8:30 to 4:30
 - On November 19th outline the Vision work required, as a starting point, review the previous Board's vision statement. Scope out how the Working Group will get to a new Vision statement.
 - It was suggested that a facilitator will be required for the Vision work. Several names were discussed. Members to provide any facilitators they are aware

of to do such a work to Secretariat. Process to hire someone will be worked through Executive.

2) Strategic Direction and Operational Business Plan 3 years 2015-16 to 2017-18

A new document is required by March 31st. Government requires this in place for future funding and possible project funding.

David Luff was willing to take this on and will begin draft a document to have Board review by January. Will consider linking Cumulative Effects and monitoring for new Plan. Goal to have Board review and approval at next meeting.

3) Report to the Premier and Public on the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area

Definite requirement to get done but requires more detail than draft presented in February. This has to be more than the template that was used for previous years.

Stephanie, David, Juergen and Corrine were on working group to advance this.

Secretariat advised that this would be his last meeting with the Board. It is time to have a new face to advance the direction government is providing the Board and work the Board needs to done to deliver.

ACTION:

Stephanie, Barry and Reg are to have a call to set up the objectives for a new support person.

Need to work to have someone in place by January/February (before next meeting)
Secretariat to provide current responsibilities to this working group.

M-K Legislation/Regulation Committee (working group)

Stephanie, Wayne, David and Johnny to participate

M-KAB Chair Stephanie Killam wrapped up the meeting with a round table closing comments from each member. She thanked members for attending and giving of their time to make the M-KAB successful.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.