



ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF VIDEOCALL

Date: November 7-8, 2023,
Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm
Location: Hotel Grand Pacific
Victoria, BC, and
Zoom Video
Conference

Members: Stephanie Killam (Chair - Virtual); David Luff (Vice-Chair); Wayne Sawchuk (Virtual); Peter Baird (Virtual); Barry Holland (Virtual); Shawna Case (Virtual); Craig Sutherland (Secretariat)

Regrets: Ruby Ann Johnny; Sean Olmstead; John Russell DeGrace

Guests: Honourable Minister Nathan Cullen; Shane Ford; Shayla Blue; Jason Lawson; Rudi Mayser; Joelle Ward (Virtual); Dawn Smith; Heather MacRae (Virtual)

Meeting Materials:

Board Meeting Agenda - Nov 7-8, 2023, and attachments, (Email from Craig Sutherland's sent Nov 1, 2023, 2:53pm)

1) Board Meeting - Nov 7, 2023.

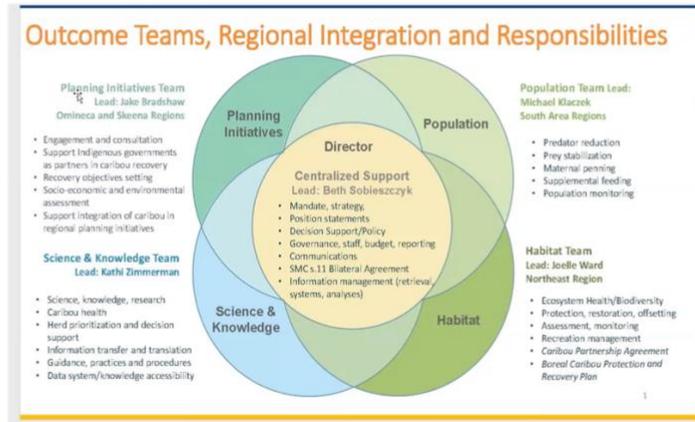
- Steph and David opened the meeting, which was moved and 2nd, and everyone introduced themselves.
- David provided some opening comments including that the Board wants to help the Minister be successful, as it relates to the MKMA, turning concerns into opportunities, and that there's been a lot of changes within Government, the Ministry, and the Board.

Topic 1 – Organizational Change:

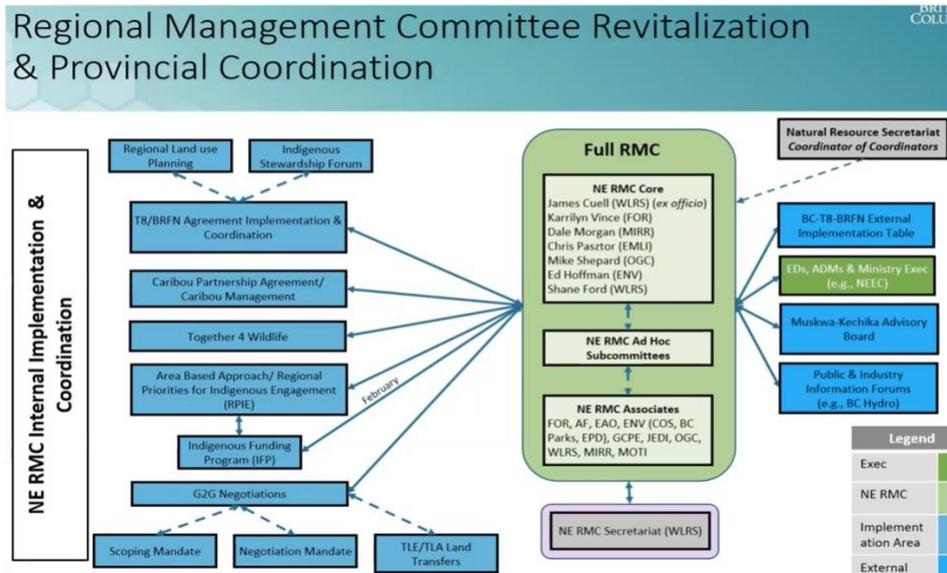
- Shane Ford gave a presentation on the recent organizational change within the ministries, and summarized by saying the MWLRS makes decisions for the land, water, hunting and fishing, whereas the MoF makes decisions for forestry, range and archeology.
- Joelle Ward then gave a quick update on the Caribou program changes. The main change is that all the regional Caribou teams are now reporting to the HQ Branch directly, but staff are still operating out of the regional offices.



MUSKWA-KECHIKA MANAGEMENT AREA



- Shane Ford gave a presentation on the Regional Management Committee revitalization, which had a great diagram of all the linkages to various groups.

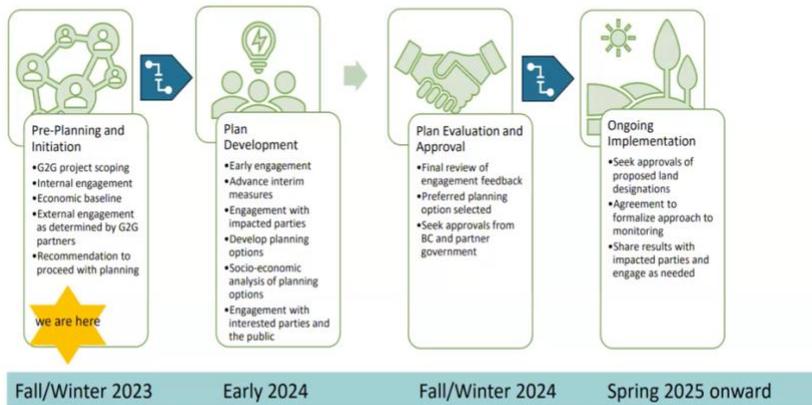




Topic 2 – Provincial Land Use Planning:

- Rudi Mayser gave a high-level presentation of the modernized land use planning update. Rudi mentioned about the Fed/BC commitment to conserve 30% of the land base by 2030. Rudi said the current level of conservation is at 19.6% but he needs to confirm that number and what contributes to that conservation number. He also mentioned that these modernized LUPs will have 1) land use direction thru objectives and zones, 2) will be done in partnership with FNs, and 3) the public and stakeholders will have a transparent process for engagement.

Land Use Planning Process



- Jason Lawson gave a presentation on the Yahey Supreme Court decision for Blueberry River FN, and an update on Land Use Planning in NE BC. Significant emphasis on restoration and development plans with FNs. There will be fiscal implications if the target dates for completion are not met.



- **June 2021** – BC Supreme Court determined infringement of Blueberry River First Nations’ Treaty 8 rights.
 - The Province chose to not to appeal decision and negotiate with Blueberry River.
- **Court declarations** re: Blueberry River’s case:
 1. “...The Province’s mechanisms for **assessing and taking into account cumulative effects are lacking** and have contributed to the breach of its obligations under Treaty 8,”
 2. “...there are **not sufficient and appropriate lands** in the Blueberry Claim Area to allow for Blueberry’s **meaningful exercise of their treaty rights**,”
 3. “The **Province may not continue to authorize activities** that breach the promises included in the Treaty, ...or that **unjustifiably infringe** Blueberry’s exercise of its treaty rights,”
 4. “...**establish timely enforceable mechanisms to assess and manage the cumulative impact of industrial development**...ensure these constitutional rights are respected.”
- Good summary background on history created by Blueberry River - **Where Happiness Dwells** - Blueberry River First Nations (blueberryfn.com) or Treaty 8 itself – Treaty 8 Tribal Association website.

Topic 3 – Other Items of Interest:

- Joelle Ward gave a presentation on the Caribou herd planning. There are Land Use objectives, which are a commitment in the Caribou Partnership agreement. There is a “pay-to-play model”

The ***Boreal Caribou Protection & Recovery Plan*** (BCPRP) was developed in partnership with Fort Nelson First Nation and through collaboration with the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality.

The BCPRP will replace the existing ***Implementation Plan for the Ongoing Management of Boreal Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou pop. 14) in British Columbia*** released in 2011 and establishes management goals, objectives and supporting management measures for four of the five boreal caribou ranges in B.C.

The map shows the Boreal Caribou Ranges in British Columbia, including the Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, and Alberta. The ranges are color-coded: Maxhamish (green), Snake-Sahtahneh (orange), Westside/Fort Nelson (yellow), and Chinchaga (red). Provincial Parks and Protected Areas are indicated by hatched patterns. An inset map shows the location of the ranges within British Columbia.



- Shayla Blue gave a presentation on the NE Round Table Update. 176 members can attend a hybrid (in-person/virtual) meeting. There will be opportunities for updates to M-KAB quarterly.

Presentations and topics delivered
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Presentation
Wildfires in NE, Fire Restrictions and Prescribed Burning
Wildlife Inventory Results – Moose and Deer
BC Parks Update incl Peace Boudreau Protected Area
Winter Motorized Recreation Management Plan
Spruce Beetle Update
Drought Planning
Yahey v British Columbia
Restoration
Old Growth Management Areas
Hunting Regulations
Collaboration with Treaty 8 First Nations in the Northeast
Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

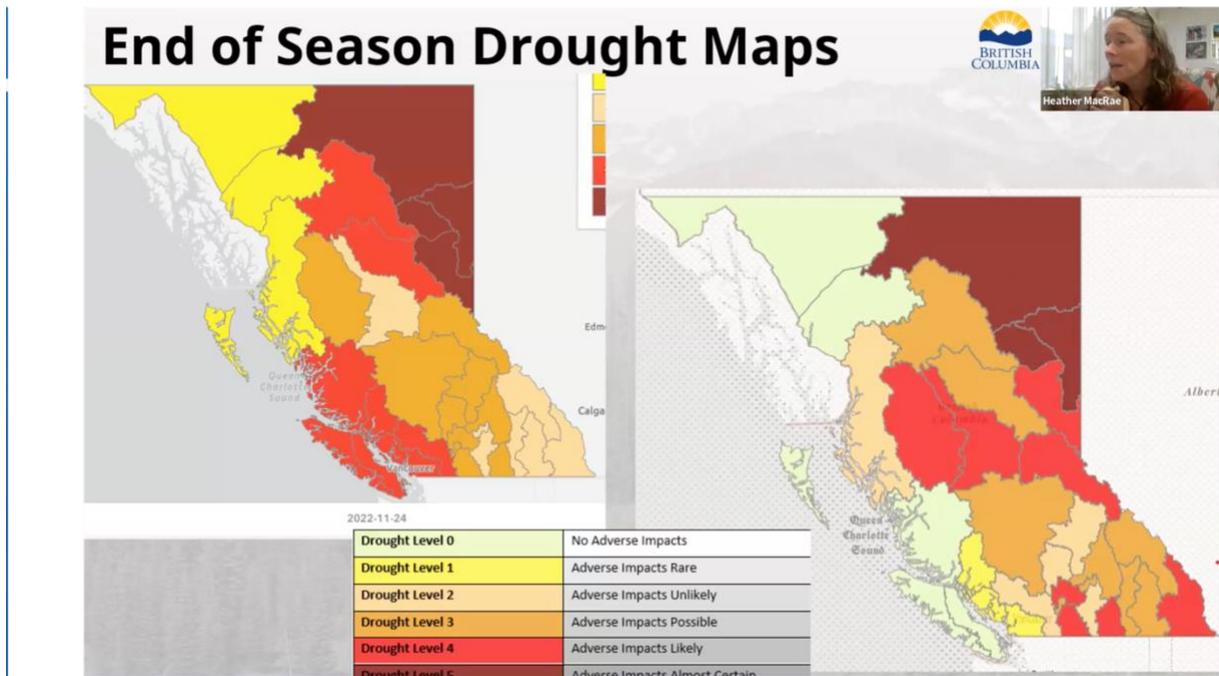
- Shane Ford gave a presentation on Carbon Offset. Areas suitable for carbon offset either need to have exclusive rights or have project additionality (e.g. Fertilizer).



- Forest carbon offsets - discussed at land use planning tables as a non-extractive revenue source.
- Revenue to First Nations & funding of conservation and management areas in BC.
- Approximately seventy First Nations have expressed interest in developing carbon offset projects.
- Trend represents a shift of revenue from forest operations to revenue from carbon offsets
 - Reduces the potential cumulative effects of extraction activities.



- Heather MacRae gave a presentation on this year’s wildfire update. In November, there are still 373 active fires burning, with 95 of those burning north of PG. There have been 2,240 wildfires this year, with 672 wildfires (2.276 M ha) in the PG area. Over 1,600 were caused by lightning. There were a few burn losses in the MKMA, two Guide Outfitters and one Trapline. For next year the prediction for the MKMA is “Adverse impacts – Possible”. Probably the same or worse wildfire season for next year.



Topic 4 – Alignment between M-KAB’s and Provincial Strategic Directions:

- There was a great discussion and questions raised between ministry staff and Board members. All agreed that we are aligned in strategic priorities and that we need a common vision. Concerns were raised that a vision for NE BC may not line up with a vision for the MKMA. The ministry mentioned that they are still trying to build relations and trust with FNs, and that it will be some time before they have a vision, including FN’s perspectives. A vision for the MKMA is further complicated because there could be 3-4 separate LUPs developed with FNs overlapping the MKMA. We mentioned that all these planning initiatives can’t work in isolation. We believe that working on building relationships with FNs is still the highest priority.



Minister Nathan Cullen and Lori Halls:

- The Board met for an hour with the Minister Nathan Cullen, Deputy Minister Lori Halls, and Ministerial Advisor Jordan van Schaik. Minister Cullen raised a few of the ministry's priorities like Conservation 30/30, Improving permitting, and Indigenous led conversation, Ecosystem health thru a Stewardship framework. The Minister asked a few questions like 1) how is the MKMA placed with all the work going on? 2) What's working well? and 3) How can we engage with you to talk about the MKMA, which is an area of great importance to this ministry?
- David mentioned that the M-KAB, has had 25 years of multi-stakeholder consensus-based decision making and has stood the test of time. The Board has worked thru some contentious issues and provided the Minister with advice to help resolve issues like wind power and the Oil and Gas pre-tenure planning process.
- David also mentioned that the Board is having significant challenges with the CABRO Appointment/Reappointment process, in that its too slow. The M-KAB can have up to 17 members. We are currently at 9 members and by next spring we could lose another 5 members. Two potential new Board members completed all the application forms and were interviewed last June but CABRO has to date not appointed these two positions. We need help on speeding up this process.
- David also mentioned that we have sent out invite letters to meet with some of the FNs within the MKMA to build relationships. The Minister and Deputy seemed unaware of these letters, even though we shared them with his staff. The Minister asked the Board what is the value-add for FNs to engage with the Board. Why spend time with the Board when there are so many demands on their time? The Minister said he would be curious how the FNs will respond to our invite letters.
- There was a good discussion about the current MKMA legislation and the need for revisions. Timing is not good now since BC elections occur next year and the legislation cue is full.
- Minister was enthusiastic for the Board's work, in such a shifting environment. He sees the Board, not at cross-roads but re-invention or re-purposing, if responded in a certain way by BC Treaty 8 and Kaska FNs. The Minister sees a connection between what the MKAB was and what it could be in this fluid period right now and he wants to be supportive. He felt the 6-month lag period for Board appointments is unacceptable. He wants the Board to continue to engage on a quarterly basis with his staff in the NE.



- 2) **Board Meeting - Nov 8, 2023**

Board Discussions:

- Board Tenures: Both Wayne Sawchuk and Barry Holland are willing to be extended another year in their tenures. Steph is actively looking for new Board members. Also, there's a need to invite more FNs to the Board, both from BC Treaty 8 and Kaska FNs. The Board needs to prepare a briefing note on this Appointment/Reappointment issue, to give as Board advise to the Minister.
- Alignment between M-KAB and MWLRS strategic direction is good, with a focus on Indigenous relations, LUP processes, and Governance. Still a concern as to how the Board can get involved early in the LUP step 1 process. Also, there's a concern that LUP timelines are too short. Good to stay connected to the ministry thru quarterly meetings. The next meeting will be in early December.
- The ministry isn't looking at the MKMA as a single unit, but as 3-4 different Land Use Planning areas based primarily on FNs territories. The ministry hasn't yet sorted out the FNs territory overlap issues. Also how does the Board get involved early in the LUP process?
- All the action items that were raised in both Day 1 and Day 2 are listed below.
- All available presentation material from the ministries will be uploaded to the M-KAB Website.

3) Action Items:

- **ACTION:** *Craig to ask Rudi Mayser to confirm that the current BC total conservation area is 19.6%, what is the total conservation amount within the MKMA, and what is included in conservation areas – what is the definition? (Done)*
- **ACTION:** *Craig to draft a thank you letter to Minister Cullen and re-iterate that the Board appointment/reappointment process is too slow. (Done)*
- **ACTION:** *Craig to draft a thank you letter to MWLRS staff for their participation and presentations and to ask for copies of the presentations. (Done)*
- **ACTION:** *Steph to solicit potential new Board members and report any progress back to Executive.*
- **ACTION:** *Craig to arrange an Indigenous Relations Working Group Zoom meeting with a purpose of drafting a Relationship Building Action Plan, as a follow-up to the First Nation Letters sent out September 28, 2023.*
- **ACTION:** *Craig to share the final Relationship Building Action Plan with Lori Halls, to keep her informed.*
- **ACTION:** *Craig to contact each of the 7 FNs to ask if they are interested in meeting virtually with the Executive Board members.*



- **ACTION:** Craig to draft an additional FN invite letter for Carrier-Sekani (Tsay Keh Dene) for Steph's approval.
- **ACTION:** Board members to review the Strategic Directions document, with specific focus on the Operational Business Plan, based on election timelines (Done).
- **ACTION:** Craig to arrange a Strategic Directions Working Group meeting to discuss all the review comments and finalize the document for approval (Done).
- **ACTION:** Craig to arrange a Planning Working Group meeting to develop Board Advice on how the M-KAB can engage early into the Land Use Planning Process.
- **ACTION:** Craig to arrange a Board Membership Composition Group meeting to develop Board Advice (briefing note) on how slow it is to get approvals and how to improve the Board Appointment/Reappointment process.
- **ACTION:** Craig to draft Thank you letters to John DeGrace and Shawna Case for their years of participation on the Board.
- **ACTION:** Craig to arrange a M-KAB Government Engagement and Communications WG meeting to develop some consistent messages about the M-KMA that will be sent out with all communications.
- **ACTION:** Craig to send an email to Shayla Blue to cancel out Nov 14th meeting and to reschedule it for early December. Need to discuss Board meeting follow-ups such as Potential Advice and formally invite them as members of the M-KAB Government Engagement and Communications WG. (Done)
- **ACTION:** Craig to send an email to Shayla Blue asking for the dates of both the next NE Round Table meeting and the Rocky Mountain Round Table meeting. Also, to invite Craig to both meeting invite distribution lists. (Done)
- **ACTION:** Craig to upload all available presentation material from the ministries to the M-KAB Website.

Meeting Adjourned: November 8, 2023, at 11:00am.