

TGIRT-EIJB Valcanton Villebois FMU 85-51

Report from the
EIGHTEENTH MEETING

Held on December 10, 2020 by videoconference on Microsoft Teams



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

APPROVED ON: JUNE 7, 2021

ATTENDING

Delegates:

Mrs.	Marie-Ève Sigouin	-	RYAM
Mrs.	Sylvie Mailhot	-	Corporation de développement de VVB
Mr.	André Elliott	-	Locality of Villebois
Mr.	Christian-Raphael Gilbert (from 9:00 AM)	-	OBV Abitibi-Jamésie
Mr.	Guy Lamoureux	-	RYAM

Observers:

Mrs.	Elaine Cyr	-	MFFP (planner)
Mrs.	Johanne Morasse	-	EIJBRG
Mr.	Mario Poirier	-	MFFP
Mr.	Martin Filion	-	EIJBRG (animator)

TGIRT-EIJB VILLEBOIS-VALCANTON

EIGHTEENTH MEETING

1. Call to order, introductions

The animator welcomes all participants and asks them to introduce themselves.

2. Reading and approval of the agenda

The animator proceeds with the reading of the agenda. Under miscellaneous, it is asked to add an item regarding the follow-up on the non-compliances. The agenda remains open and two other items will be added later in the meeting.

On a motion by Mrs. Marie-Ève Sigouin, duly seconded by Mr. André Élliott, it is unanimously resolved to approve the agenda with the proposed addition.

3. Reading, follow-up and approval of the minutes of the meeting held on December 12, 2019

The animator reviews the minutes and pays a particular attention to the decisions and follow-up items. It is requested to change Rayonier to RYAM where it is mentioned.

On a motion by Mr. Guy Lamoureux, duly seconded by Mrs. Johanne Morasse, it is unanimously agreed to approve the minutes with the requested correction.

4. Correspondence

Three correspondences were received since the last meeting. They are for mining exploration work in the territory of the TGIRT. Two notices from Orford exploration were received several months ago. The animator displays the map available with the notices. A third notice by Midland exploration was received a few days ago.

5. Follow-up on the issues

This item is listed in the agenda on a statutory basis. The members ask to display the up-to-date grid. In regards to the issue of the conservation of the caribou habitat, a delegate suggests adding an action related to the GOR work and those of the regional technical committee for the development of a road management plan. Repeating the concern of the delegate that consists in avoiding working on several actions in parallel and independently. The animator suggests two actions that consist in following closely the work of the Detour GOR and those of the regional technical committee for the development of a road management. The organisation or group in charge of this could sit on the TGIRT. The animator suggest adding a statutory follow-up item regarding the work on the Detour herd and, more generally, a follow-up on the work regarding the recovery of the woodland caribou. He will propose an addition to the grid at the next meeting.

In addition, a delegate reminds that the issue of the aesthetic quality of the landscape was covered up to the approval of a VOIC. It would therefore be necessary to update the grid to reflect this.

6. Regional technical committee for the development of a road management plan

As a follow-up of the first meeting of the regional technical committee for the development of a road management plan, the animator display the minutes on screen. He mentions the context for the implementation of the committee.

The first meeting of the technical committee was held on October 19. During this meeting the members started establishing the structure of the plan or table of contents. A member also asked to propose an accelerated road closure procedure when it can be applied. The members took this opportunity to discuss the eventual use of the plan. Namely, it could allow the establishment of a maintenance cost sharing structure for certain roads. Also, a member suggests following an agreement reached for the Selbaie road which, for several years, is no longer under the responsibility of the ministère des Transports du Québec. Finally, the members asked that Cree representatives could be on the committee so their concerns regarding the road network can be taken into consideration at the beginning. A delegate who is also member of the committee adds that they are not looking to start from scratch but to start from what is already done in the PAFIT and use the sound practices. She mentions the case of a nurse who died on a road that was no longer accessible as a fact that there is a communications issue that must be considered. In regards to this issue, it was also proposed that the EIJBRC set up a Facebook page to broadcast continual information regarding the work performed on roads or when events occur that render a road unusable for example. The delegate considers that Rexforêt should also be part of the committee since they regularly maintain forest roads. However, it is still the MFFP that plans and authorise road repairs and who represents the State corporation at the TGIRT. There is nevertheless a need for a link between Rexforêt and the regional technical committee. It will be asked to the MFFP representative on the regional technical committee to ensure a communication link with Rexforêt. An observer asks if the MFFP has a Facebook page like the one the EIJBRC is getting ready to set up, since they are the ones who manage the forest and, at the same time, the roads leading to it. In response, the MFFP observer replies that the information broadcast is limited to the closure of a bridge or watercourse crossing. The MFFP is not responsible for the management of forest roads but the safety of these roads. The observer mentions that to continually inform the population on the condition of forest roads, the EIJBRC does not have more information than the MFFP. According to a delegate, a tool like Québec 511 would be required. It is also suggested to look at another tool such as Forêt ouverte. The events that led to the death of the nurse brought questions at the government level, i.e. to know who is responsible for broadcasting the information on the condition of the forest roads and, as mentioned, the MFFP is responsible for informing the population on the condition of the watercourse crossings. The need to offer up-to-date and continuous information regarding the forest roads remains present but the organisation that will want to take it on with an online tool, such as a Facebook page, will need to commit to being responsible for the validity of the information thus broadcast and updated. An observer recognises that the EIJBRC had expressed its intention to set up a Facebook page but not necessarily to meet the need discussed here. The Facebook page would instead be used to allow the EIJBRC to better assume the responsibilities it has as a municipal organisation.

7. Presentation of the public consultation reports on the special plan regarding burn 72, PAFIO and PAFIT

The animator displays the burn location map. The MFFP planner discusses the subject by mentioning that, when she does presentations, it is only on topics related to the territory of the TGIRT, which is not the case for burn 72. The MFFP observer briefly discusses the only two comments received.

The MFFP planner continues with the reports on the public consultations held in January 2020. Two comments were made regarding FMU 85-51. In the first comment, a resident asked to be informed by email when work was planned near his camp. In response, the resident was invited to register to a mailing list. Another resident asked that there would not be any logging in the area he uses. Considering that a management delegation was agreed nearby, the MFFP had to remove certain logging areas.

The August consultation was only regarding the FMUs of the Chibougamau management unit.

Regarding the report on the PAFIT public consultation of July, several comments were received. A first comment was regarding the FSC logo, a correction was made. In another comment, it was asked to include a description of the community of Waskaganish that uses a portion of the territory of FMU 85-51, like the community of Pikogan. An addition was made to this effect. Other comments suggested improvements to the maps and regarding some technical aspects. Some correction requests and precisions were made. In another comment, it was asked why educate the forest for the recovery of the woodland caribou. In several cases, we are looking to reduce the hardwood element in order to make the treated sites less attractive to the moose and the wolf. A delegate asked about the mechanism included to ensure that the comments made during the PAFIT consultations and answered by the MFFP are actually considered afterward and that the requested corrections are made to the revised PAFIT

since, apparently, it was not always done in the past. The planner will do the internal verifications and come back with clarifications at a future TGIRT meeting.

8. State of progression of the amended 2018-2023 PAFIT

The MFFP planner mentions that the PAFIT amendment is complete and available on the MFFP website.

9. Modifications to the PAFIO

The MFFP planner displays a map on screen. The animator adds that the map was not received at the EIJBRG. The planner is aware of this but provides explanations related to the delays that are difficult to follow in some cases. She proposes giving her ArcGIS presentation in this session and promises to provide maps before the consultations at the end of January. The animator replies that it is not the appropriate way to proceed and that this item cannot be a consultation for the TGIRT during this meeting. The planner provides a justification and continues with her presentation of the new response areas. She adds that the VOIC that was established was followed during the planning of a harvest area around Pajegasque lake. An observer asks if the VOIC around Turgeon Lake can appear on the map. The MFFP planner replies that it is not on the map because it would overload the mapping information that they wish to highlight. A delegate suggests providing a consultation map of the TGIRT with the VOIC without having it appear on the consultation map. The planner agrees to do it and to provide the map of the modified PAFIO to the TGIRT before the public consultation scheduled to start around January 25. The animator mentions that it is a minimum and that the map must be sent to the delegates at least 10 business days in advance. He also asks that, from now on, the maps be provided to the TGIRT at least ten days before its meeting like everywhere else in the region.

10. Information item on the Regional Operational Group (GOR)

The MFFP planner displays the presentation by Mrs. Sonia Légaré. The composition of the GOR includes the First Nation Abitibiwinni, the CNG, RYAM, Probe Métal, the Société pour la nature et les parcs and the MFFP. There were 5 regular meeting within a year. Subcommittees, including one on the forestry certification are in effect in the territory and a forum between Ontario and Quebec contribute to the work of the GOR. The planner takes advantage of this item to congratulate Mrs. Marie-Ève Sigouin for her mention as forestry engineer of the year for 2019. The territory of the Detour VEP corresponds generally to the north of FMU 85-51, the entire FMU 85-62 and a small portion of FMU 86-52. Based on a scenario being studied, a category of spatial organisation compartments (COS) would receive a harvest delay of 150 years. Several other COS would also receive a delay of 70 years. The GOR analysed some issues and made six recommendations. The cooperation is excellent at the GOR. Also, they wish to maintain the GOR in the medium term to ensure reaching some objectives. The planner lists the five objectives targeted that establish a good coherence of the group as a first recommendation. The second recommendation is about mining exploration. The area being studied is mostly covered by active mining titles. However, an active mining title does not necessarily involve activities that disturb the caribou. In addition, they wish to establish guidelines applicable to the management activities. They hope to develop a range of mitigation measures that would apply based on the context in place. The third recommendation is to establish a close cooperation with Ontario and officialise it. This would allow for a better coordination of the knowledge acquisition and follow-up efforts on both sides of the border. The fourth recommendation is to develop an access road management plan in cooperation with the first nations and local partners in order, among other things, to target road closure opportunities. The fifth recommendation is related to the fourth. It is to learn the dynamics of the winter road closure and how this dynamics influences the quality of the habitat. The last recommendation is to add protection masses. We are at the issues analysis step.

11. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2021

The animator proposes a schedule of TGIRT meetings for the year 2021. The three dates proposed are acceptable for the members. The three dates agreed upon are February 15, June 7 and December 9, 2021. The three meetings begin at 8:15 AM. This proposal is acceptable for all members present.

12. Miscellaneous

a) Follow-up on the FSC non-compliances

The alternate for RYAM presents this item. She states that the territory has been certified for 15 years. The last audit went well, even though there were some elements to correct. Among others, it was noted that the Villebois and Valcanton TGIRT does not have a representative for wildlife interests. The animator replies that there is a seat for trappers and another for hunters, fishermen and wildlife observers. He mentions that efforts will be deployed after the holidays to fill the vacant seats. However, it is always difficult to fill some seats such as the one for hunters, fishermen and wildlife observers. The members suggest some names including a representative at the TGIRT for the TFR. The members suggest inviting a representative of the Association de chasse et pêche de La Sarre.

b) Recognition given to Mrs. Marie-Ève Sigouin

The RYAM delegate informs the members of the TGIRT that Mrs. Marie-Ève Sigouin was recognised at the Forestry engineer of the year 2019. The animator suggest to the members of the TGIRT to highlight this recognition by approving a motion and a letter of congratulations.

On a motion by Mr. Guy Lamoureux, duly seconded by Mrs. Sylvie Mailhot, it is unanimously agreed to send a letter of congratulations to Mrs. Marie-Ève Sigouin for the recognition she received.

c) Operations near Turgeon Lake

As part of its forestry operations near Turgeon Lake and following a visit with representatives of the Locality of Villebois, the company RYAM made changes to the road it used earlier. The delegate from Villebois recognises the excellent cooperation with RYAM and that the work is already in progress. The rectifying work should be completed in the spring. An observer asks if the Locality of Valcanton also receives a good response to their concerns regarding the portion of road situated in their locality. The RYAM delegate explains and confirms that the cooperation is as cordial with Valcanton as with Villebois. The delegate of the Locality of Villebois takes advantage of this item to ask for a recent update on the wood harvested by RYAM.

13. Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 10:30 AM. The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2021 at 8:15 AM.

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

ACRONYMS

COS:	Spatial organisation compartment
FSC:	Forest Stewardship Council
TGIRT:	Integrated Land and Resources Management Panel
CNG:	Cree Nation Government
GOR:	Regional Operational Group
EIJBRG:	Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government
MFFP:	Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
PAFIT:	Tactical Plan for Integrated Forest Management
PAFIO:	Operational Plan for Integrated Forest Management
FMU:	Forest Management Unit
VEP:	Vast proper area
VOIC:	Value, objective, indicator, target