

TGIRT-EIJB Matagami FMU 86-52, 86-64 and 86-65

Minutes of the **SEVENTEENTH MEETING**

Held on November 26, 2019 in the conference room of the EIJB RG in Matagami



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

APPROVED ON : DECEMBER 1ST, 2020

ATTENDING

Delegates:

Réal Dubé – Town of Matagami
Amélie Bécharde (by telephone) – Eacom Timber
Yan Bernard (by telephone until 12:00 PM) – Matériaux Blanchet
François Denis (by telephone) – Produits forestiers Résolu
Valérie Moses – Scierie Landrienne

Observers:

Isabelle Fortin - MFFP
Johanne Morasse (telephone) – EIJBRG
Martin Filion – EIJBRG, animator

Guests:

Dave Levasseur – MFFP, planner

TGIRT-EIJB OF MATAGAMI

SEVENTEENTH MEETING

1. Call to order, introductions

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

Some members present mention their difficulty in accessing the members section. When attempting to access the members section, the MFFP observer says she finds herself in front of a grey page. The animator will try to resolve the problem with the members who have difficulties individually after the meeting.

2. Reading and approval of the agenda

The animator reads the agenda. It is asked to add an item under Miscellaneous: Progress of the PADF projects.

On a motion by Mrs. Valérie Moses, duly seconded by Mr. Réal Dubé, it is unanimously agreed to approve the agenda with the requested addition.

3. Operational procedures – Approval of the minutes

The animator advises the members that, from now on, the observers and delegates may propose and second the approval of the minutes of a prior meeting, at the condition of having been present at that meeting. The animator takes advantage of this item to inform the members that the operational procedures will be updated after the Holidays. This will be clarified in the new operational procedures.

4. Reading, follow-up and approval of the minutes of the joint meeting of the Matagami, Nemaska and Waskaganish TGIRTs held on September 5, 2019

The animator reviews the minutes and pays a particular attention to the decisions and follow-up items. There were discussions regarding the issue of water quality. The MFFP will soon give a presentation on what is currently included in the operational rules. Also during this meeting, Mrs. Sonia Légaré had given a presentation on the strategy anticipated for the reestablishment of the woodland caribou habitat. At the end of that presentation, it was asked to collect the concerns of the members regarding the anticipated strategy. To this day, the animator has yet to receive any comment or concern by email. He suggests that this could remain open for an indefinite period. Regarding the issue of access to the territory, the animator mentions that he could not advance the work regarding the implementation of a regional technical committee. He explains the reasons and says that he is expecting the concerns at the local level. He reiterates the existence of an interactive map that shows the roads deemed strategy and the VHR trails. He briefly explains the operation of this map. This map is already established at the regional level. While waiting for the implementation of the regional technical committee, the animator suggests to the members to express their concerns with the interactive map. This is satisfactory for the delegates.

On a motion by Mrs. Valérie Moses, duly seconded by Mr. Réal Dubé, it is unanimously agreed to approve the minutes as proposed.

5. Correspondence

There is no correspondence for this meeting.

6. Follow-up on the issues

a) Concerns of the delegates regarding the strategy planned to ensure the reestablishment of the woodland caribou habitat

This item was mentioned earlier. The animator says that during the last series of TGIRT meetings, it was asked by the ministry authorities to put a hold on the regional technical committee for the development of an access road management plan related to the strategy anticipated for the reestablishment of the woodland caribou, until a regional operational group is launched. The MFFP observer provides clarifications on the eventual implementation of such a group. A regional operational group is already at work for the D tour herd. A second meeting will be held on December 18.

The EIJBORG observer asks about the capacity to build roads, in regards to a project put forward by the Town of Matagami, i.e. the Feldodge road. The MFFP observer mentions that the authorisations have already been issued for this road. She provides additional clarifications. She invites her to submit her requests if there are others.

A delegate asks for clarifications to the MFFP observer regarding the composition of the regional operational group to be implemented. The observer mentions that this was not yet the subject of a unanimous agreement from the authorities. In the case of the group for the D tour herd, a group had already been established and put to work several years ago. This group was simply maintained and a request was sent to the CNG to designate a Cree representative. The delegate expresses a desire common to the BGAs, that they can be represented on the regional operational group. Another delegate reminds that a short deadline had been established and that 5 months have elapsed without the regional operational group being formed. The observer will forward the wishes of the delegates to her Regional Director.

b) Development of an access road management plan

This item was discussed above. The use of the interactive map allows the delegates to express their concerns in a spatial manner. The animator invites the delegates to send him their concerns of this issue in other manners if they wish.

The animator adds that the issues grid is evolving, that it is continually worked on. It is a statutory item. He mentions that the issues are worked on at the TGIRT and, when there is a unanimous agreement, they are approved. Eventually, they may be known publicly, namely through the public section of the TGIRTs. So the population can see them. During the next meetings, he expresses his intention to advance the work on the issues of the TGIRT.

Regarding the caribou issue, the EIJBORG observer asks if the fact of establishing areas under protection allows the MFFP to disengage from performing silviculture work in order to ensure a return to production of these areas. The MFFP observer explains the interim measures that, once established, the wood harvest is prohibited from that moment on. The EIJBORG observer agrees that the harvest may be excluded but asks about the silviculture work, once the harvest has been completed before the implementation of these measures. The MFFP observer mentions that the interim measures are related to areas more to the north. She clarifies that the silviculture work to be done, in fact, is completely outside the interim measures.

The animator returns to the issues as a group. He mentions that, for the moment, the only issues on which the TGIRT can work are those of the water quality and the access to the territory. For the first one, the next step is a presentation of the MFFP on the terms included in the PADF. For the second one, he wishes to obtain more clarifications. He expresses his wish to bring the delegates to work on the issues of the grid. He wishes to see the TGIRT take at least one decision at each meeting in order to make a few steps forward. A delegate of the BGA group reminds that it was expected to have the regional technical committee in place regarding the access to the territory but nothing has moved since then. The animator replies that it is the responsibility of the TGIRT to mandate a technical committee and it must identify the objectives of this technical committee. A delegate from the BGA group considers that the technical committee should already be working on the issue of the degradation

of the road network and the lack of maintenance. In his opinion, it is the responsibility of the technical committee to put the issues to the forefront. The animator duly notes the two issues raised and mentions that it is the first time he hears about them. Two delegates from the BGA group provide some clarifications and information on this issue of the degradation of certain roads but for them, the BGAs perform maintenance based on the use they make of the roads. The expectations of the other users are also expected. The EIJBORG observer reminds that a regional technical committee had been implemented when she was coordinating the TGIRTS. She asks how the work of this committee has progressed. The animator mentions that the known objective of this committee was to determine the roads deemed strategic and a priority. Concretely, the coordinator needed to collect the form files from the BGAs and produce a regional map of the roads deemed a priority. He adds that this mandate was completed and the objective was reached. The EIJBORG observer mentions the PADP program and the federal-provincial program for the maintenance of multi-purpose roads, excluding the wood transportation by the BGAs.

The animator returns to his concern that the issues grid has not evolved in a while, namely due to the extended absence of the delegates who raised some of these issues. A delegate from the BGA group mentions that we see mostly BGAs at the TGIRT tables. It seems therefore appropriate for other users to participate in the TGIRTS so we can know their concerns. For a delegate of the BGA group, beyond the fact that some objective have yet to be clarified in terms of access to the territory, according to what he reads, the users mention more often than not the lack of maintenance of the of the roads as an issue. He suggests clarifying the need in this manner. Afterward, the other users can clarify this need if necessary. The delegates of the BGA group specify the level of involvement that they wish to exercise regarding the development of the issues of the TGIRT in order to give a greater place to the concerns and expectations of the other users. The BGAs wish to be listening to the other users. However, we will agree that the users besides the BGAs are not very present at the TGIRT. Also, there are consultation procedures outside the TGIRT that the other users already use. A delegate mentions that the territory of the TGIRT is so large and so little occupied that if there are concerns from the other users, they will likely be very specific and localised.

The members of the TGIRT agree that the absence of other users at the TGIRT is a major restriction to the progression of the work. At that moment a question is asked to know how to mobilise the other users. It is necessary that people who take part in a first meeting of the TGIRT to feel concerned and involved. For a delegate representing a group besides the BGAs, his interest is to hear the needs of the members of his community. But for the other users, what could be the interest in participating in the TGIRT? The MFFP observer demonstrates a perception of the other users in which they would not have a place. The discussions continue to know how we could better know the expectations of the other users and interest them in participating in the TGIRT.

Getting back to the issues of the TGIRT, a delegate mentions that a technical committee for the development of an access road management plan was announced at the last meeting and has yet to be implemented. The animator explains the context, in regards to the strategy anticipated for the reestablishment of the woodland caribou habitat. During the last series of meetings, at the Chapais-Chibougamau TGIRT, a representative of the MFFP announced that this technical committee had been put on hold until a regional operational group was implemented in regards to the anticipated strategy. The MFFP observer seriously doubts this information and agrees to verify its validity internally. She confirms the veracity of this information a bit later during the meeting. Nevertheless, the delegates consider that a mandate was given to form the regional technical committee for the development of an access road management plan and some members have already been designated. The delegates ask to reactivate this technical committee. The animator will do the follow-up with the other TGIRTS as soon as the remaining meetings of this series. It is also asked that this regional technical committee will not only work on the issue of the reestablishment of the woodland caribou habitat but also on the other issues of the TGIRT. The optimisation of the road network must be worked between the BGAs and the other users. This technical committee must therefore include other users; otherwise it would not be justified.

On a motion by Mr. François Denis, duly seconded by Mrs. Valérie Moses it is resolved to form the regional technical committee by ensuring that users other than the BGAs are well represented. A first mandate of the technical committee is to clarify the needs of the various users. The animator will do

a follow-up with the other TGIRTs and propose a date for a first meeting as soon as possible. Mr. François Denis and Mrs. Valérie Moses will also be part of the regional technical committee.

Returning to the issues grid, the EIJBORG observer asks for clarifications regarding the means associated to the need to maintain of a certain proportion of mixed forests for the moose. She asks for a validation to know if there should be a map to produce according to a means established in the grid. She adds that the caribou and the moose cannot cohabitate and suggests establishing areas on a map where the moose or the caribou will be prioritised. She suggests to the Matagami TGIRT to take a position on this. The MFFP observer mentions that this could be part of future discussion, namely within the eventual regional operational group on the strategy anticipated for the reestablishment of the woodland caribou habitat. The EIJBORG observer understands but asks if the TGIRT could not already position itself by already designating areas for the moose. A delegate mentions that this would not be a good idea and explains the reasons. The TGIRT does not retain this suggestion, especially since there is currently no representative of the fishermen and hunters at the TGIRT. Following the persistence of the EIJBORG observer, the animator reminds some of the operational guidelines. Some members recognise that there is possibly a concern and discuss to know if there would be a way to advance it differently. A delegate asks if it would be relevant to make a few calls to invite a particular to occupy a seat. In response, the animator explains what has been done in the last few months and what is planned in the next months to energise the TGIRTs and to fill the maximum number of seats, namely by freeing seats that the delegates never occupy and by advertising invitations to the people interested in occupying a seat through public notices in the newspapers. A delegate asks if we use the phone to reach people, noting that sometimes this is the most effective way. When comes the time to solicit people to fill seats, the animator explains the importance of reaching every one and in a manner that all people eligible to occupy a seat can be reached the same way. In summary, we must make sure to reach everyone. This is why we use public notices instead of the telephone. In some cases, when it is possible, a targeted mailing is done by ensuring to reach the most all the members of one group. He delegate clarifies her question, which concerns delegates that have already been name but who do not come to the meetings. She asks if we make calls to know why they are not coming. The animator replies that yes, we make calls on occasion. "We did it in September". The animator mentions that the mobilisation of people at the TGIRTs is his main concern. Also, he asks if it would be necessary to broadcast the announcements in the near future. A delegate believes that no since people do not really read them. The animator proposes to her to join the coordination committee in order to find solutions to energise the TGIRTs. The delegate representing Scierie Landrienne accepts to be part of the committee. The animator will take the necessary measures.

7. Modification of the 2018-2023 PAFIO

The MFFP planner presents the amendments to the PAFIO of the various FMUs individually. A particular attention is paid to the members other than the BGAs who see the maps for the first time. The amendments are mainly related to the silviculture work.

8. Mixed stand strategy and directions on the wildlife habitats

The MFFP observer provides a situation statement regarding the progression of this file. The work is currently done in cooperation between the MFFP and the CNG, in order to collect the concerns of the tallymen affected by the mixed stand strategy, more specifically the communities of Waswanipi, Oujé-Bougoumou and Mistissini. Once the concerns are known, they will be added to the comments received during a workshop held on May 30, 2019 in the development of the document. The observer provides the steps for the next few weeks. In addition to the work in progress, the MFFP implemented transitional measures in order to maintain the mixed stands throughout the trap lines. Regarding the directions on the wildlife habitats, work is in progress to develop approaches adapted to the needs of the various wildlife species in order to assess the habitat quality for the various species. This second work site was temporarily put on hold to focus on the first. It is a major work site, considering the limited personnel. In the end, we will be able to discuss if we prioritise the moose or the caribou as an umbrella species. As for the planners, they will have the tools to help make a decision.

9. Amended PAFIT table of contents

The MFFP observer summarises the modifications made to the table of contents of the PAFIT. This step is part of the consultation process which includes a consultation of the TGIRTs. We are not about to launch the public consultations on the PAFIT, starting on January 6, 2020. One of the amendments made since the generation of the 2013-2018 PAFIT is a grouping of FMUs. The members are invited to consult the various documents and submit their comments if necessary.

10. Proposed schedule of meetings for 2020

The animator submits a proposed schedule of TGIRT meetings for 2020. For the Matagami TGIRT, the three meetings are scheduled for February 11, June 9 and December 1. This is satisfactory for all members.

11. 2019-2020 schedule of seminars of the Canadian Forest Service

The EIJBRG observer presents the schedule of seminars of the Canadian Forest Service. She mentions that it is not easier to remotely attend the presentations of the Canadian Forest Service. She invites the interested parties to register to the mailing list of the organisations through a web link indicated on the schedule.

12. Miscellaneous

a. Advancement of the PADF projects

The EIJBRG observer mentions the road improvement work done through the PADF program on the Feldodge Road. She mentions the project from the Town of Matagami that justified this investment. A delegate mentions that other investments will be coming, namely through the Société du Plan Nord. The program also permitted to do some brush cutting along the Matagami Lake Road. Another project was requested for Olga Lake Road but the applicant had not anticipated to provide a contribution of 25% as required by the program.

13. Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 12:30 PM.

On a motion by Mrs. Valérie Moses, duly seconded by Mr. François Denis, it is unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

ACRONYMS

BGA:	Beneficiary of a supply guarantee
TGIRT:	Integrated Land and Resources Management Panel
CNG:	Cree Nation Government
EIJBRG:	Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government
MFFP:	Ministère des Forêts, 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
RADF: Sustainable Forest Management Regulation
FMU: Forest Management Unit
VHR: Off-road vehicle