

MUSKWA-KECHIKA ADVISORY BOARD

FINAL Meeting Minutes

Meeting Dates: October 23rd and 24th 2013

Meeting Location: Lakeview Inn, Fort St John B.C.

October 23rd Minutes

M-KAB Members Attending:

Stephanie Killam (Chair)
David Luff
Reg Gardner

Corrine Porter
Barry Holland

Danny Case
Gavin Dirom

Juergen Puetter
Wayne Sawchuk

REGRETS:

Bill Lux (Vice Chair) Johnny Mikes

Leif Olsen

Peter Stone

Doug McKee

GUESTS:

Mayor Lori Ackerman, City of Fort St John
Laura Plante, A/Executive Director, Ministry of FLNR Victoria

8:30: M-KAB Chair Stephanie Killam welcomed all to the Advisory Board meeting and led a round table of introductions.

Chair recognized this meeting was being held in Treaty 8 territory.

Chair introduced Mayor Ackerman to address the Advisory Board members.

- Mayor Ackerman welcomed members to City of Fort St John. She highlighted current issues and on increased growth in the City. The Mayor noted many of the positive aspects to a growing city along with some of the challenges that go with this. She hoped the members would enjoy their stay in Fort St John and for this meeting to be productive and successful.

8:45 **Correspondence**

Secretariat tabled a report on all correspondence for 2013. Members took time to review and brought forward any questions or comments on correspondence.

Requested that the Ungulate Winter Range letter received just prior to this meeting be tabled tomorrow for discussion and direction.

Operational Budget

Secretariat tabled the current financial spreadsheet and spoke to the recent funding provided by the Province. A review by the members ensued to ensure there was clarity on the current funding that is in place to March 2014.

NOTED: A detailed discussion on the remaining funds to March 2014 would be undertaken during the Budget/work plan agenda topic later in day. Members would work to prioritize the utilization of the remaining funds available.

9:00 **BC/M-KAB Working Group**

(overview sheet on the work undertaken since the March 2013 Advisory Board meeting was provided to members)

- David Luff and Stephanie Killam highlighted the direction being provided to the Advisory Board by Kevin Kriese and Butch Morningstar back in July.
- They advised members that a meeting was now set up with Minister Thomson to table the Strategic Direction and Operational Business Plan. (meeting set for November 6th with Executive members in Vancouver) Executive will touch on future funding options (ie: M-K Trust Fund) that may be available to the Advisory Board.
- Members advised they are still working to establish a meeting with Omineca Managers and continue to work closely with those Directors/Managers who have M-KMA responsibilities and decision making. Focus of these meetings is to table SDOB Plan and discuss key priorities.

Advisory Board Member asked if there has been any report out to them regarding Government to Government reconciliation.

Response: nothing has been reported to Executive in previous discussion with Province, but they will follow up at next opportunity.

9:50 **BC Park Management Plan Working Group**

Secretariat provided an overview document on status of the Northern Rocky Mountains and Redfern Keily management plans. BC Parks planner advised of a delay due to other work priorities. Target for a final recommended draft to come to the Advisory Board would now be March/April 2014.

When these plans become available to the Working Group, they will be provided to all members. The Working Group will set up a conference call to finalize input from members and then will provide advice on these to the Executive for their review and endorsement. Executive will prepare the advice to the Province.

Advisory Board recommendation on the next M-K Park Management Plans:

BC Parks Planner Dani Money had requested in March for the Board to provide their recommendations for the next park Management plans that they felt should be done in the M-KMA. She would take this recommendation under advisement and work this recommendation into her work priorities. She wanted the Advisory Board to understand that her work includes Parks and Protected Areas outside the M-KMA and other park planning duties and responsibilities.

The Advisory Board members agreed to and supported the recommendation provided by Johnny Mikes. (It was noted that this recommendation had gone through email review by all members).

Recommendation put forward as a Motion to members:

- 1) ***A contiguous group of Parks and Protected Areas that include Dune Za Keyih (Park and PA), Denetiah (Park and PA) and Dall River Old Growth***

Park is recommended to be the next park management plans to be developed by BC Parks.

- 2) ***Members also brought forward the Province's commitment to re-convene the Northern Rocky Mtn Park Public Advisory Group (PAG) as part of the final review process for this park management plan.***

Moved: Wayne Sawchuk **Second:** David Luff **SO MOVED**

- Secretariat to prepare 2 letters for this recommendation.
 - Will circulate to all members for review and finalization before providing to BC Parks.

10:30 **UNBC Partnership Working Group**

David Luff reported that it has been challenging to get this working group set up for a meeting for various factors.

Meeting now set for November 14th at UNBC: will follow up on postdoctoral fellow project and status along with discussion of future initiatives and keeping partnership active.

Working group members felt that a face to face meeting was required recognizing the financial pressures existing with Advisory Board. They will consider future meetings to be done by conference call if acceptable to UNBC members. Anticipate on face to face meeting per year.

Wind Energy –Suitability in M-KMA Working Group

After tabling the report to Advisory Board for this working group, discussion ensued regarding this resource activity and its appropriateness within the M-K regarding wilderness values and road access.

A question was put forward: should this group should wait until the Wilderness WG and the Vision work has been completed?

Advisory Board members requested this Working Group continue its work and outlined the next steps they would like to be undertaken:

- 1) ***Review current Investigative Use Permits (IUP's)in the M-KMA and engage Province on the status of each IUP.***
- 2) ***Review current process for IUP's and process to move to a developed wind farm – what is involved.***
- 3) ***Determine if there are any “best practices” available for wind energy and how those could be applied to the M-KMA***
- 4) ***Consider solar power along with wind energy as an emerging source of energy***
- 5) ***Continue to track Wilderness working group and consider their final work in determining suitability of wind energy in the M-KMA.***
- 6) ***Report back to Advisory Board at next meeting.***

Diversified Funding Model for Advisory Board

David Luff reported out that only 1 session has taken place with this group. Much work has to be done on this.

Advisory Board recommended to move this forward after the meeting with Minister Thomson to present options for the next Board meeting.

Danny Case to be part of the Working group along with David Luff, Bill Lux and Juergen Puetter

Mineral Claims/tenures & EBA report

Discussion on this working groups report out, Corrine Porter asked if the WG knew where mineral development was done right and what examples are out there. She wasn't as concerned as some members about the number of claims but how they are approved, what requirements to do work and what is required for reclamation.

Working Group's recommendation to follow up on an "expectations" document had detailed discussion on the appropriateness of such a document when information is already available through website and Ministry.

David Luff asked how the Working Group dealt with EBA's report and their recommendations. Advisory Board should have a clear line of sight on each recommendation and how it responds to that recommendation and ensure that this is communicated back to Province and industry.

Next steps as determined by Advisory Board:

- 1) Working Group to go through each recommendation in EBA's report and confirm their direction on each one.***
- 2) Working Group to have a review with the Advisory Board members through email and conference call if required.***
- 3) Advisory Board to provide the final report and Advisory Board's advice on the recommendations in the report.***
- 4) Distribute the report and Advisory Board's advice to industry.***
- 5) Work with Ministry staff to scope out and prepare an expectations document, funding estimated at \$2500 for such a document.***
- 6) Working group to see if funding can come from others.***

Adventure Tourism

Johnny Mike's review of the old draft M-KMA Recreation Plan along with the Working Groups review of the LGL report and recommendations was tabled and reviewed by members.

As with the Mineral report from EBA the Advisory Board members request the Working Group to:

- 1) Take each recommendation provided in the LGL report and provide their advice for each recommendation.***
- 2) Provide back to Advisory Board for review & consensus and then provide report back to Province with advice on the report's recommendations.***

- 3) **Make recommendations to the Advisory Board on the provincial tourism strategy “Gaining the Edge” on linkages with the Management Area. Engage Tourism Ministry staff to gain their perspective.**

Further discussion on whether the Advisory Board should be “promoting” Adventure tourism in the M-KMA as noted by J Mike’s report out.

- Some members felt that it was inappropriate for the Advisory Board to support one activity such as Adventure tourism over other activities.
- Others felt that it is important that the Advisory Board play a role to promote the M-KMA

After this discussion, noted that the Advisory Board does have a role in legislation/regulation, to “facilitate provincial, national and international exposure of the values and management of the M-KMA”. Members determined they would not promote one activity over another. A future discussion on how the Advisory Board meets the regulatory role, other than the web site, is required.

Wilderness Definition

Report out from this working group led to a detailed discussion on the work to date and what is required to finalize this within the Advisory Board.

Pam Wright has led facilitating this group through one sit down meeting and one conference call along with strings of emails. Pam could not attend this meeting and did not feel it was appropriate as a facilitator as she felt the Advisory Board needed to flesh out where it wanted to go before engaging her further.

Gavin Dirom tabled an outline for a revised definition that includes the work from Wayne Sawchuk and what is required to complete such a document.

- ***It was determined that a facilitator at this point is not required but may be at some point.***
- ***Gavin and Wayne would work quickly to flesh out the document tabled with principles and guidelines and then set up a conference call with the Working Group members to see if an agreement and recommended document can be accomplished.***
- ***Subject to the outcome of this STEP, will determine if a facilitator is required for further work.***
- ***IF a facilitator is required, a 3^d party that is independent from the Advisory Board and the Management Area has been recommended, no names put forward at this meeting)***

Once this Working group can come to consensus, then the document requires to be tabled with the rest of the Advisory Board to gain full support.

Upon Board approval, then the document would be taken to the Province for tabling with them with the outcome to have his as part of the decision making process in the M-KMA.

Once the wilderness document is finalized, the bigger component is required to be done, that of coming to a common and shared understanding for the Vision of the Management Area.

1:00 PM

Strategic Direction & Operational Business Plan

- table Budget and Work plan document

The final SDOB Plan was provided for this meeting.

The process that finalized this Plan from the “approval in principle” from the final draft undertaken by Phil Zacharatos was outlined to members.

After the overview of this, David Luff presented a draft budget and work plan for delivering upon the objectives in the SDOB plan. This is an internal document for the Board to outline the priorities and the budget required to complete those priorities.

The one page operational budget sheet with funds available to March 31, 2014 was re-visited as part of this discussion.

David walked members through the document outlining what was required to be done to March 31st and what is tabled for the following year.

After a thorough discussion the Advisory Board agreed:

- 1) *the budget spreadsheet along with the Work plan document needed to be updated from this discussion with the priorities established at this meeting.*
- 2) *The Executive is responsible for overseeing this budget and priorities and will work to manage within the existing funds available. Any major changes will be brought back to the Advisory Board to review.*

4:30 PM

Development of a “common and shared” understanding for the Vision of the M-K Management Area.

The Wilderness Working Group will move ahead with this once an agreement has been made on the Wilderness definition.

It will be important to begin this as soon as possible and get a document out to both the full Advisory Board and the Province for review and then establish a meeting to finalize this.

4:45

M-KAB Chair wrap up for today:

- 1) Omineca managers meeting, target December 11th or 12th for initial meeting in Prince George. Secretariat to follow up with Lynda Currie ASAP.
- 2) Advisory Board members support Juergen Puetter when in meetings with Treaty 8 communities to distribute the SDOB plan with them for their information.
- 3) Advisory Board, through Executive, needs to follow up on suggestion presented earlier in day from Danny Case. **The Advisory Board needs to do more than work to place First Nation people on the Advisory Board, Open the door for discussions on initiatives that could lead to partnerships, work to build relationships with First Nations governments and communities.**

October 24th DRAFT Minutes

M-KAB Members Attending:

Stephanie Killam (Chair) Bill Lux (Vice Chair) Danny Case Juergen Puetter
David Luff Barry Holland Corrine Porter Wayne Sawchuk
Reg Gardner

REGRETS: Johnny Mikes Gavin Dirom Leif Olsen Peter Stone Doug McKee

GUESTS:

Laura Plante A/Executive Director, Ministry of FLNR Victoria
Butch Morningstar, Executive Director Ministry of FLNR Victoria
Greg Van Dolah, Ministry of FLNR, Fort St John
Chris Addison, Ministry of FLNR Fort St John
Karrilyn Vince, Ministry of FLNR, Fort St John.

Regrets: Heather Cullen, Ministry of Energy and Mines

8:30 M-KAB Chair opened today's session, welcome to all, review agenda. Welcomed the provincial government members to meeting and looked forward to their presentations and discussions.

8:40 Butch Morningstar presented an overview of the Provincial initiative, *Integrated Decision Making in the Resource Sector*. (power point presentation to be posted on Advisory Board members web page for reference)

Following presentation, members had an opportunity to ask questions as to how this would affect future management decision making in the M-KMA. With being a major initiative, question was left for Butch on having the M-KMA being a "test" model for this initiative.

9:45 Greg Van Dolah, presented a pilot project in the North East (Dawson Creek old Forest District/LRMP boundary) on Cumulative Effects Assessment. There are 3 pilots provincially and Greg is leading the Dawson Creek pilot. (power point presentation to be posted on Advisory Board members web page for reference)

Following presentation, Board members followed up with questions and observations. Several key points left with Greg and his working team to consider was the fact that caribou have been extirpated in the area and the model doesn't deal with that. David Luff suggested that CEAM needs to consider other values such as communities, socio-economic, etc and Barry Holland added about water and air quality as being most important. These values don't seem to be part of the pilot work being done and were put forward for consideration.

10:45 **BC Government report on activities in the M-KMA**

Chris Addison tabled a draft report on the past 2 years of activities in the Management Area. He also provided updated maps for tenures for this draft report. Several wildlife reports were also tabled for information to the Advisory Board.

David Luff initial response to the draft report is that the Province should include major projects such as the Integrated Management Decision Making and the Cumulative Effects Assessment.

Access management was also discussed with Chris and he is asking the Advisory Board to provide input into issues with current regulation. He provided a 2 page overview of the current issues back in June and would appreciate input from the Advisory Board on based on these issues.

Advisory Board will review this focusing on intent for access regulations and considering the current issues and how they can be dealt with based on the intent for this regulation. Wayne, Barry and will work with Secretariat on this. Review by all members before going back to Province.

Chris further provided some observations (anecdotal) on current moose populations, highlighting that predation appears to be affecting populations the most.

11:30 M-KAB report to Premier and Public

- Members recommend that the Advisory Board take 2 weeks to review the government report and Secretariat to consolidate input. Once Chris Addison finalizes the report, then the Advisory Board can prepare its report to the Premier and Public.
- Recommend that the Secretariat undertake writing of report, Stephanie Killam will draft the Chair's letter for the opening of the report. Secretariat will review other public body's annual reports for ideas in terms of format etc.

Target date for report will be for Board review at next meeting, with final report due by March 31st, 2014 David Luff, Corrine Porter and Wayne Sawchuk to oversee the draft work

M-KAB Policy and Procedures

- Brief overview of the last draft from 2008. Board members agreed that this needs to be short and succinct.
- Board members requested to provide Secretariat with any policies that they feel are required to be part of this.
- Provincial Board and Resource Office (BRDO) provides guidelines for those who are part of government Boards/Commissions, this document will focus on internal work of the Board and its operations for all members.
- Secretariat to draft, Corrine Porter, Stephanie Killam to oversee and all Board members to provide their input into what policies are required in this document.

12:45 Chair Stephanie Killam ask for closing comments by each Board member present. She then concluded the meeting, thanking all for attending and participating to advance the work before the Advisory Board.

**NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 11th & 12th 2014
Prince George, Four Points Sheraton**