

MKMA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes

February 24th and 25th 2015

- Location:** Aeolis Wind Board Room, Victoria
- In Attendance:** Stephanie Killam (Chair), Shawna Case, Juergen Puetter, Barry Holland, Gavin Dirom (by phone), Johnny Mikes, Wayne Sawchuk and Peter Stone
- Regrets:** Lana Lowe, Lori Warren, David Luff, Reg Gardner and Corrine Porter
- Guests:** Laura Plante, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Tuesday, February 24th

9:00 AM

- Chair welcome and opening remarks
- Call for additions to agenda- None
- Motion to adopt: Shawna Case. Second: Johnny Mikes. Adopted as presented

9:15 AM

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

1. Wilderness Definition and Vision (Wayne Sawchuk)

The group has made progress on defining qualities and characteristics of wilderness with the goal of developing guiding principles and recommendations. Work remains to be done with respect to definitions. A call is planned for March 19th to determine next steps.

ACTION: Phil to schedule telecon with the working group for March 19th.

2. Mineral Claims/tenures (Phil Zacharatos)

The group will be reactivated to complete its tasks of reviewing the EBA Report with the goal of providing recommendations to the Ministry of Energy and Mines on how mineral claims may be explored and potentially developed in the MKMA. They also have an initiative to create an “expectations document” that will be provided to all mineral tenure holders within the MKMA that describes the management intent for the area in order to assist tenure holders consider their potential exploration activities accordingly.

ACTION: Phil to follow up with Gavin regarding “next steps” for the working group.

3. UNBC – MKMA Partnership Agreement (Phil Zacharatos)

The agreement expires on May 31, 2015. The working group co-chairs (David Luff and Kathi Parker) have a telecon scheduled on March 25th to layout the framework for the update to the agreement. The update should explore opportunities to support the Board’s strategic priority of developing advice to Government regarding the potential of timber harvesting in the Fox/Obo drainages.

9:40 AM

Review of “Conducting Our Business” Operating Guidelines

Members of the Board undertook a comprehensive review of the guidelines and made several recommendations to improve the structure of the document as well as the content. The document will

be revised accordingly and forwarded to members for final review and comment before the document is finalized.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of signing the document annually. While the members acknowledged the reasoning for signing it (symbolizing collective agreement and commitment to abide by the guidelines) it was decided that signing was not necessary and that their agreement to abide by the guidelines and to undertake a comprehensive review annually was sufficient to show their commitment to operationalizing the document.

ACTION: Phil to revise the document in accordance with feedback from the meeting and distribute to the Board for final review by March 6th.

1:00 PM

Update and advice from MFLNRO regarding Strategic Direction of the Board (Laura Plante)

Laura provided commentary and advice consistent with the February 11, 2015 advice¹ sent to Stephanie from Greg Rawling (Regional Executive Director, Omineca Natural Resource Region).

Laura noted that although progress on providing advice to Government has generally been slow she was confident that the Board had a good understanding of its direction in light of recent discussions with ministry officials and Greg's advisory email to Stephanie. She recommended that the Board carefully evaluate which projects it supported to proceed with over the term of its updated Strategic Direction and Operational Business Plan by focusing only on those that would lead to the creation of integrated, clear, meaningful and measurable advice for forestry operations in the Fox/Obo drainages and for potential Wind Power projects (the two industries most likely to proceed with project proposals in the MKMA). It was noted that the presence of beetles in the Fox/Obo increased the likelihood of road development further underscoring the priority of creating Forestry advice.

Nobi's work in the MKMA should be evaluated to determine if it is of value in assisting with the creation of advice by the Board by providing a transparent process of identifying all values potentially at risk in an area under consideration.

Laura observed that the work the Board had done to develop pre-tenure planning was a good foundation to build upon as it proceeds with creating the advice noted above. The principles of trade off analysis (how much of an activity (or collection of activities) can be tolerated in a management unit, where and for how long) should guide the development of advice by the Board.

Both Shawna and Peter noted that they have undertaken planning in the MKMA and the members agreed that if that information could be shared they would appreciate presentations at either the working group level and/or at the next Advisory Board meeting.

A new working group is to be created with the task of creating advice for potential harvesting operations in the Fox/Obo and Wind Energy projects. As the cornerstone to this advice, and any other advice the Board creates, is the advice/direction that will arise from the Wilderness Definition and Vision Working Group alignment and linkages between the two groups is critical.

ACTION: Phil to poll the members of the Wilderness Definition Working Group and the members of the new Fox/Obo Harvesting Operations and Wind Energy Projects Working Group (Shawna, Johnny, Reg, Corrine, Juergen and Stephanie) for the possibility of meeting on the evening of the April 9th and the day of April 10th. It is proposed that the Wilderness Working Group meet on the evening of the 9th and morning of the 10th to continue progress on its work and the new working group meet in the afternoon of the 10th to scope (frame) its work. Meeting location is proposed as Prince George.

¹ See Attachment #2(a) of the Agenda (posted in the members section on our website).

1:20 PM

Strategic Session

Advisory Board members undertook a detailed review of the Strategic Direction and Operational Business Plan summary and agreed on the following priorities² for the term of the updated plan:

- Complete Wilderness Definition & Vision;
- Define the structure or principles of “Advice” (what do we mean when we use the words “integrated, clear, meaningful and measureable?”);
- Evaluate Nobi’s “Analysis of Conflict between Potential Resource Use and Wildlife Conservation” model as an assessment tool to assist with advice development;
- Create advice regarding anticipated forestry operations in the Fox/Obo drainages (or similar logical geographic unit);
- Renew MKMA-UNBC Partnership Agreement;
- Create Wind Energy Projects Advice;
- Complete Mineral Tenures Advice; and
- Planning for a 20th Anniversary Celebration of the creation of the MKMA Advisory Board

The update to the Strategic Direction and Operational Business Plan will clearly articulate expected outcomes and how the priorities will be integrated to ensure consistency.

ACTION: Phil to update the Strategic Direction and Operational Business Plan reflecting the Board’s discussion and direction and forward to members for final review and comment. The updated plan will be forwarded to members no later than March 20th.

When the plan is finalized Phil will create an Annual Work Plan and 2015/16 Operating Budget for the member’s review, comment and approval.

Wednesday, February 25th

8:30 AM

Draft Wording Respecting the Passing of Butch Morningstar

The Board reviewed and approved draft wording created by Phil to honor Butch on the Memorial website.

ACTION: Phil to post the wording on the Memorial website.

8:35 AM

In-Camera Session (personnel and finances)

The Board (absent Phil) agreed that his position name change from “secretariat” to “coordinator” to better describe the broader range of expectations of his role.

The Board (absent the chair) agreed to increase the chair’s remuneration (honorarium) from \$250/month to \$500/month commencing April 1, 2015. This reflects the hard work and time that Stephanie has expended, and will continue to expend, as the chair.

Out of camera at 8:50 AM.

8:50 AM

Financial Review (3rd Q review and 4th Q Forecast)

² Laura to provide feedback regarding status of Park plans completion discussed at a previous board meeting.

The Board reviewed and accepted the report as presented. The Board was advised that the forecast for the February Board meeting may vary as several members were unable to attend.

ACTION: Phil to work with Diana at Resources North Association to finalize a financial summary to end of February, 2015 to facilitate allocation of additional funding to support the Board's operations to this fiscal year end. Summary to be submitted no later than March 3, 2015.

9:00 AM

Report to the Premier and the Public of BC

The Board undertook a detailed review of the report. Some recommended changes to the report:

- In the Message From the Chair section of the report create wording that dedicates the report to both the late Butch Morningstar and the late Tom Briggs (former chair of the Board);
- Await the outcome of a teleconference (time and date to be determined) of the Adventure Tourism Working Group. The group is to review decisions made and next steps to guide the wording in the report pertaining to this item;
- In the future when statistics are provided regarding activities and tenuring in the MKMA ask that additional context be provided regarding "what has changed on the land base" and "where have the activities and/or tenures occurred"; and
- When the report is finalized print and mail a high quality copy to the Premier, natural resource ministers, Kevin Kriese and key agency staff (Laura Plante and Greg Rawling for example). It should be posted to the website as well.

ACTION: Phil to revise Premier's report and send to Board members for final review and comment. When endorsed, print, distribute and post in accordance with the preceding.

9:45 AM

Boreal Leadership Council invitation to Stephanie and FPIC Linkage

Stephanie informed the group of the invitation and what the objectives of the meeting were (a short power point presentation³ was given). The Board agreed expenses to attend the meeting be covered.

10:00 AM

Additional Business

Does the recent Tsilhqot'in decision affect or influence the Board's business and procedures?

Does the decision impact the Board's business and procedures? Should the Board seek direction from Government on this matter? Should the Board have someone knowledgeable in this matter present to the members at their next Board meeting?

After considerable discussion the Board concluded that there was no impact because the decision pertained to rights and title. The Board's deliberations are guided by the legislation and regulation regarding the integrity of the MKMA. The decisions, advice and guidance arising from the Board are not influenced by who has jurisdiction over decision making on the land base. Those are political matters and are not germane to the business and procedures of the Board.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

October 14 and 15, Prince George (meeting office to be determined). Depending on the agenda this may be a one day session.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

³ Can be found with these minutes in the member's section of the MKMA website.