

**COASTAL HABITAT RESEARCH PROGRAM**

**STEERING COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE 22ND MEETING**

**HELD IN CHISASIBI ON JUNE 18 AND 19, 2019**

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**PRESENT:**

Norman Cheezo – Cree Nation of Eastmain  
Réal Courcelles – Hydro-Québec  
Marc Dunn – Niskamoon Corporation  
Carine Durocher – Hydro-Québec  
Jean-Philippe Gilbert – Hydro-Québec  
Louie Kanatewat – Cree Nation of Chisasibi  
John Lameboy – Cree Nation of Chisasibi  
Geraldine Mark – Cree Nation of Wemindji  
Ernest Moses – Waskaganish First Nation  
Roderick Pachano – Cree Nation of Chisasibi  
Ernie Rabbitskin – Niskamoon Corporation  
Robbie Tapiatic – Cree Nation of Chisasibi  
Alain Tremblay – Hydro-Québec

**ABSENT:**

James Bobbish – Cree Nation of Chisasibi  
Mhaly Bois-Charlebois – Hydro-Québec  
Jean Rodrigue – Canadian Wildlife Service  
Nadia Saganash – Cree Nation Government  
Emily Sinave – Cree Nation Government

**PROPOSED AGENDA**

**Tuesday, June 18, 2019 – Niskamoon Corporation**

**1 p.m. – 4 p.m.: Pre-Steering Committee for the Cree Members**

**Wednesday, June 19, 2019 – Niskamoon Corporation**

**9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 22nd Steering Committee meeting**

- 1) Approval of the agenda
- 2) Approval of the minutes of the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st meetings

- 3) Finalize research proposals and budgets for 2019–2020:
  - a. Research program on Geese (J-P. Gilbert)
  - b. Research program on Cree Knowledge and Land Use (M. Dunn & C. Durocher)
  - c. Research program on Oceanography – Coastal (A. Tremblay)
  - d. Research program on Oceanography – Rivers (A. Tremblay)
  - e. Research program on Eelgrass – McGill/UNB/UBC (M. Dunn)
  - f. Incorporation of research data – UManitoba (M. Dunn)
- 4) Update on research programs:
  - a. Research program on Geese (J-P. Gilbert)
  - b. Research program on Cree Knowledge and Land Use (M. Dunn & C. Durocher)
  - c. Research program on Oceanography – Coastal (A. Tremblay)
  - d. Research program on Oceanography – Rivers (A. Tremblay)
  - e. Research program on Eelgrass – McGill/UNB/UBC (M. Dunn)
  - f. Incorporation of research data – UManitoba (M. Dunn)
- 5) Field logistics:
  - a. Update (E. Rabbitskin)
  - b. Helicopter incident of June 6, 2019 (M. Dunn)
  - c. Accommodations in the Cree communities (A. Tremblay)
- 6) Data sharing between researchers (M. Dunn)
- 7) Letter sent by Niskamoon to George Lameboy, John Lameboy and Bob Lameboy (M. Dunn)
- 8) University of New Hampshire's mandate
  - a. Non-renewal of research agreement (M. Dunn)
  - b. Revision of Dr. Short's contract (Mr. Dunn, N. Cheezo and N. Saganash)
- 9) Communication plan, action plan and newsletter
  - a. Report and minutes of symposium (M. Bois-Charlebois)
  - b. Newsletter (M. Bois-Charlebois and C. Durocher)
  - c. Past and future actions
- 10) Arctic Net – Halifax – December 2 to 5, 2019 (A. Tremblay)
- 11) Next meeting
  - a. Chisasibi, August 20 and 21, 2019
- 12) Meeting schedule for 2019
  - a. 2020 Eelgrass Symposium
- 13) To do list
- 14) Miscellaneous

## **CHAIR AND SECRETARY**

Marc Dunn chaired the meeting on June 18, 2019.

Norman Cheezo chaired the meeting on June 19, 2019.

Réal Courcelles acted as Secretary. The meeting began at 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

### **1) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The Chair reviewed the agenda. The agenda was approved with the following modification:

Item 11) Meeting schedule for 2019

a. Next symposium: January 2020

### **2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st MEETINGS**

The Chair reviewed the minutes of the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st meetings page by page. Some corrections were requested and the minutes were approved as corrected.

The meeting paused at 5:05 p.m. on June 18 and resumed at 8:55 a.m. on June 19, 2019.

### **3) FINALIZE RESEARCH PROPOSALS AND BUDGETS FOR 2019–2020**

Mr. Dunn informed the participants that, at its last board meeting on June 12, 2019, the Niskamoon Corporation had reviewed the proposals and budgets for all specific studies and approved the budgets as recommended by the Financial Sub-Committee (FSC). Mr. Dunn said that the budgets for most of the specific studies cover the years 2019 and 2020. Mr. Dunn said the SC has to review these proposals and budgets and optimize them if need be. He said that once the budgets are approved by the SC, Niskamoon will prepare the contracts to be signed by each proponent. Mr. Dunn said that no budgets contained helicopter fees because there are still unknown elements in some of the research studies. He said that the SC will have to approve these fees later.

#### **a. Research program on geese**

Mr. Dunn reviewed the undated budget proposed by Jean-François Giroux of UQAM, entitled "Expenditures proposed by Jean-François Giroux, UQAM, for the Canada goose study of the coastal habitat research program, 2019." A copy is appended to the minutes. Mr. Dunn said that UQAM's proposal covers one year (ending March 2020).

Mr. Pachano asked what they are going to do.

Mr. Dunn said that they plan to fit 15 geese with refurbished collars in the Puvirnituk (POV) area this summer in cooperation with the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and the US Fish & Wildlife

Department. He said that they will also analyze the satellite data collected from the collars and recovered booklets and bands. Mr. Dunn said that the SC has to decide whether we should recommend that an aerial survey be carried out. He said that UQAM would also like to go out to the hunters' camps in the fall to collect goose stomach contents for analysis. He said that the latter activity is not included in their budget.

Ms. Durocher suggested that Mr. Idrobo go with them and meet the trappers and their families at their camps.

Mr. Dunn agreed with Ms. Durocher's suggestion.

Mr. Cheezo asked where they will go and with whom.

Mr. Dunn said they will go wherever a family wants to host them. He said that there are a lot of options; for example, the researchers could accompany the trappers and their families on the fall goose hunt.

Ms. Durocher said that they should plan to visit more than one family campsite. She said that they should plan on a week.

Mr. Dunn said this additional activity would probably cost about \$20,000, but that first and foremost, we need the land users' consent.

After discussion, the members of the SC expressed their support for this activity. Mr. Dunn said that if the land users consent to hosting them at their campsites, a budget will be submitted to the SC for approval.

### **c. Research program on Oceanography – Coastal**

Mr. Tremblay reviewed the undated budget prepared by UQAR-ISMER entitled "ISMER – Coastal Oceanography, Budget July 2019–December 2020." A copy was appended to the minutes.

Mr. Dunn said that ISMER does not charge us for the salaries of the five qualified professors that are overseeing this study. He said that we only pay the students, whereas the University of New Hampshire (UNH) was charging us Fred Short's full salary.

Mr. Gilbert added that in the case of ISMER, it is in Canadian dollars.

Mr. Pachano asked who F-J Saucier is.

Mr. Tremblay answered that *F-J Saucier* is the name of the boat ISMER uses to conduct offshore sampling.

Mr. Pachano asked why an amount of \$26,000 was budgeted for the *F-J Saucier* in 2018.

Mr. Dunn answered that this was a cost overrun from last year; they were not expected to have to use the boat in 2018 but as it turned out, they did have to use it.

Mr. Rabbitskin said that the boat will probably remain in the area all summer this year.

Mr. Dunn said that ISMER's proposed budget covers 2019 and 2020. He reiterated that helicopter fees are not included in the budget.

Mr. Cheezo said that the 40% administration fee is high compared to what the other universities are charging.

Mr. Dunn said that there is no standard when it comes to overhead costs. He said that ISMER absorbs certain costs in their overhead that other universities charge in their budget. He said that, all in all, it comes out to about the same. Mr. Dunn showed a letter on screen, dated May 14, 2019, from Arianne Plourde of UQAR-ISMER to Marc Dunn concerning the 40% indirect cost charged by UQAR-ISMER.

He said that the letter explains why ISMER is charging 40% for administration.

After discussion, the SC approved the UQAR-ISMER budget for the Oceanography – Coastal study.

#### **d. Research program on Oceanography – Rivers**

Mr. Dunn reviewed an undated document from Paul A. del Giorgio of UQAM entitled "River Project, Budget Justification for Year 4 (2020 to 2021)." A copy was appended to the minutes.

Mr. Pachano asked who the Principal Investigator (PI) is.

Mr. Dunn answered that it is Paul del Giorgio of UQAM.

After discussion, the SC approved the UQAM budget for the Oceanography – Rivers study.

#### **e. Research program on Eelgrass – McGill/UNB/UBC**

Mr. Dunn reviewed a document presented by McGill University entitled "Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Project, Eelgrass Project Proposal 2019–2020, Presented to the Niskamoon Steering Committee, April 5th, 2019." A copy was appended to the minutes. Mr. Dunn said that the total budget approved by Niskamoon was \$827,873 since at this point in time, we are not sure if or when the consortium will get a grant from NSERC.

Mr. Pachano asked how many years are covered by the proposed budget.

Mr. Dunn answered that the budget covers two years, i.e., 2019 and 2020. He said that this is much less than what UNH charged us.

Mr. Tapiatic added that their proposal not only costs less but is also far more detailed than the one from UNH.

Mr. Dunn said that if the NSERC agrees to award a grant for this study, we will go back to the SC to have the members look at all the conditions likely to be associated with the grant and decide whether these conditions are acceptable.

Ms. Durocher requested that the consortium send their application to the SC for comments before submitting it to NSERC.

Mr. Dunn accepted and said he would forward the request to the consortium. He asked the Secretary to take note of Ms. Durocher's request.

#### **b. Research program on Cree Knowledge and Land Use**

Mr. Dunn reviewed two undated documents prepared by Mr. Idrobo entitled "Cree Knowledge and Land Use in James Bay Coastal Area, C. Julian Idrobo, PhD in Natural Resources and Environmental Management" and "Budget TEK Study Phase I." Copies of both documents were appended to the minutes.

Mr. Dunn said that this is a new proposal that was never presented to the SC.

A discussion followed concerning the approach Mr. Idrobo intends to use to document the concept of well-being among Cree land users. The SC required to Mr. Idrobo to refer to the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay concept of health being.

Mr. Dunn agreed with the concerns raised and said that he is worried that Mr. Idrobo is focusing on that issue too narrowly and is missing the main point of the research. Mr. Dunn explained that although Mr. Idrobo has all the proper qualifications to carry out this study, he has no experience working with the Crees in Eeyou Istchee. He said this is why Mr. Idrobo agreed to conduct the study in phases. He said that Phase I will end in December 2019 and the results will determine what Phase II will consist of.

Mr. Pachano asked how he intends to follow the activities of Cree hunters.

Mr. Dunn said that he will travel with the hunters and they will move him around from place to place. He said that it will be tricky, but that Mr. Idrobo wants to be out with the land users in their boats and at their camps.

Ms. Mark said that Mr. Idrobo should meet with the land users in the community (Wemindji) before interviewing them during the fall goose hunt. She said that it might be distracting for the hunters to be interviewed during the goose hunt.

Mr. Dunn stated that Mr. Idrobo had said that his goal is to conduct 45 interviews with Wemindji land users. He said that he is concerned that Mr. Idrobo will not be able to interview 45 land users. He said that this could create expectations that Mr. Idrobo cannot fulfill.

Ms. Mark said that we should have a better understanding of what Mr. Idrobo wants to accomplish when he meets with the land users in mid-August before going to their hunting camps.

Mr. Dunn said that Mr. Rabbitskin will be with Mr. Idrobo throughout his fieldwork.

Ms. Durocher said that she is concerned about the land users' expectations.

Mr. Dunn said that he will inform Mr. Idrobo of all the concerns raised by the SC members.

Ms. Durocher said that each local coordinator should identify which of the community's individuals should be interviewed as a priority and have Mr. Idrobo focus on them first. She said that Mr. Idrobo's background is in biology, not social sciences. She said that we need to be cautious.

Mr. Dunn confirmed that this would be the case. He said that although Mr. Idrobo has all the credentials required to carry out this study, the fact that it is being conducted in phases shows that we are being cautious. He said that this way, we'll be able to make adjustments at the end of each phase, if required.

Ms. Durocher said that in his proposal, Mr. Idrobo does not explain how the Cree Nation Government (CNG) will work with him.

Mr. Dunn said that mapping will be the CNG's only contribution to his study.

Ms. Durocher said that we need more information as to how Mr. Idrobo intends to involve the CNG in his study and what his working relationship with the CNG will be.

Mr. Dunn continued reviewing the budget.

Mr. Cheezo asked when Mr. Idrobo would start.

Ms. Mark said he would start around mid-August, since that's when the land users start preparing for their goose-hunting season.

Mr. Dunn said that the Wemindji land users had requested a meeting in mid-August. He said that Mr. Idrobo could start earlier. He said that it is up to the local coordinators to tell us when their communities' land users will be ready to meet with Mr. Idrobo.

Mr. Moses requested that a copy of Mr. Idrobo's proposal and budget be sent to him.

Mr. Dunn said that he was now emailing Mr. Idrobo's budget for Phase I to all coordinators. He said that he would finalize Mr. Idrobo's proposal with him based on the comments received during the course of this meeting. He said that since this is a new proposal that no one had the chance to read before the meeting, he recommends that the SC members read it and send their comments to him within the next two weeks.

The meeting paused at 10:05 a.m. and resumed at 10:24 a.m.

**f. Incorporation of research data – University of Manitoba (UM)**

Ms. Kuzyk from UM joined the meeting via conference call.

Mr. Dunn presented a document from UM entitled “University of Manitoba, Coastal Oceanography and Science Integration, Budget July 2019 – December 2020 (version: 27 May 2019).” A copy was appended to the minutes.

Ms. Kuzyk reviewed the budget and said that, as a result of the meeting she attended a few weeks ago with land users who said that sediment could also be a factor in the changes observed in eelgrass beds, we need to further investigate sediment supply and erosion as a source of sediment.

Mr. Tapiatic introduced Charles House from trapline CH-34, saying that he was joining the meeting as an observer. Mr. Tapiatic explained that all land users were told that they are welcome to attend SC meetings.

Ms. Kuzyk said that she attended a meeting with the CNC council in June 2019, during which the consortium on eelgrass was introduced and the nature and scope of the various studies were presented to the council. Ms. Kuzyk said that the day after that meeting, the workshop they held with the Chisasibi land users proved to be very useful, particularly when they used a map to identify the locations of the eelgrass beds and their health status. She said that this allowed them to develop a plan for the upcoming fieldwork. She said that the land users had also mentioned the presence of mud at the bottom of the eelgrass beds. She said that they were able to look at a joint sampling strategy for the upcoming campaign and establish priorities. She said that they will be better prepared for the upcoming campaign and that everybody seems very positive about working together.

Mr. Dunn said we should do the same thing with the other communities.

Ms. Kuzyk agreed. She said that Mr. Idrobo should also be with them. She said that they were able to get a lot done in one day.

Mr. Rabbitskin said that Mr. Idrobo will be in Wemindji in mid-August.

Mr. Dunn said that this should be organized by conference call. He said that he, Mr. Rabbitskin, Ms. Mark and Mr. Cheezo should hold a conference call to coordinate the upcoming meetings.

Mr. Dunn asked Mr. House for his impression of the workshop mentioned by Ms. Kuzyk.

Mr. House said that they wanted to know where the eelgrass beds were. He said that they said they'd be using divers to collect samples. He said that it was a fruitful meeting.

Ms. Kuzyk thanked everybody and left the meeting.

Ms. Durocher said that she is glad that Ms. Kuzyk attended those meetings and will thus be able to pass the land users' priorities on to the researchers.



Going back to the budget, Mr. Cheezo asked what is included under the item "Equipment."

Mr. Dunn said that Mr. Tremblay and he had asked for a list of the equipment that UM needs.

After discussion, the members of the SC members approved the proposed budget for UM's oceanography study and the incorporation of the research data.

#### **4) UPDATE ON RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

Mr. Dunn said that there is not that much left to say about the various special studies since we have just reviewed them and approved their budgets. He said that for the goose study, however, there are decisions that have to be made.

Mr. Gilbert said that the collars bought last year did not function well and, after discussion with the company that makes the collars, they agreed to compensate for the inconvenience by providing 11 new collars at no cost. He said that the company also refurbished 4 or 5 collars recovered from geese harvested last year. He said that geese will be fitted with these 15 or 16 collars this summer at no cost to Niskamoon, since it will be done during the CWS banding campaign in the POV area. He said that some of the collars will be put on long-necks and others on residents or short-necks.

Mr. Pachano asked where the geese went.

On screen, Mr. Dunn showed a map from the progress report by Jean-François Giroux of UQAM showing the movement of the geese equipped with transmitters last fall in Boatswain Bay.

Mr. Kanatewat asked why they were not putting collars on the geese that stop along the coast.

Mr. Gilbert said that they need to find the perfect spot for setting the nets and cannons to catch the geese. He said that it is also expensive, the logistics involved are complicated and the geese are very wary. Mr. Gilbert said that in addition to the banding campaign in the POV area this summer, the CWS will also conduct one in the Aupaluk area.

Mr. Dunn said that they are also starting to band geese on Akimiski Island in James Bay. Mr. Dunn said that we should focus our efforts on recovering the bands and booklets from Cree hunters.

Mr. Gilbert said that aerial surveys could also provide useful information.

Mr. Dunn said that this raises the question of the goose survey. He said that the aerial survey is not worth doing if it does not cover the entire length of the coast.

Mr. Gilbert said that it is a matter of cost. He said that if we do not want to spend money just to wind up with partial results, we should not do aerial surveys. He said that Jean-François Giroux told him that if the budget permits, we could do a partial flyover of the coast.

Mr. Lameboy said that when the eelgrass beds were healthy, the geese were staying longer north of Chisasibi, which caused sort of a delay in their north-to-south migration along the coast. He

said that they do not stop that much nowadays, because the eelgrass beds are no longer what they were.

Mr. Dunn said that Mr. Giroux believes it would be worthwhile to do a survey in the fall because it would allow us to see whether the geese are stopping where there are eelgrass beds.

Mr. Lameboy said that all the tallymen of the traplines north of Chisasibi have to agree to it.

Mr. Dunn said that there will be a meeting of the Chisasibi land users on July 3 and 4, 2019, where we could present a proposal for an aerial survey this fall and give them time to think about it and get back to us with an answer at the beginning of August. Mr. Dunn said that he asked the local representatives to inform the land users in their communities about a possible aerial survey this fall and see what they think.

Ms. Mark said that the Wemindji hunters want results and answers to their concerns.

Mr. Gilbert said that if the aerial survey is accepted, it is extremely important that all coastal land users be properly informed and made aware of it.

Ms. Durocher suggested that if it is accepted by the land users, the goose inventory should be discussed in our next newsletter. She said that messages can also be posted on Facebook to inform people about a goose inventory along the coast.

Mr. Pachano asked what the purpose of the goose study is.

Mr. Gilbert answered that the transmitters will provide information about how much time the geese spend flying and eating, where they go and why they are flying inland instead of along the coast.

Mr. Pachano said that the geese go inland because there is no more food along the coast.

Mr. Dunn said that the fact that the transmitter data shows that the geese are going inland confirms the Crees' observations. He said that we now have two sets of knowledge confirming that the geese are flying inland, although some geese are still flying along the coast.

Mr. Gilbert said that we want to know what they are doing while flying inland; do they stop to eat, or do they just keep on flying south?

Mr. Cheezo said that in the spring, the females are the first to arrive at the nesting grounds to look for a nesting spot whereas in the fall, the males lead the flock and they go straight south.

Mr. Kanatewat said that, in the fall, some of the geese fly to the Lac-Saint-Jean area and feed on blueberries. He said that he believes that this is another reason why geese are flying inland.

Mr. Pachano said that although the geese can find food inland such as grass in water, they do not stop in these areas very long, whereas along the coast they used to stay longer.

Mr. Dunn asked who would be available to give a presentation on the aerial survey at the meeting in Chisasibi on July 3 and 4.

After discussion, nobody seemed to be available on July 3 and 4.

Ms. Durocher said that she wanted to come back to the subject of Mr. Idrobo's research on Cree knowledge. She said that Mr. Idrobo should identify Cree indicators of healthy eelgrass beds. She said that such indicators are the key to incorporating the researchers' data on the other components. She said that developing the indicators should be Mr. Idrobo's first priority and that he should come up with them as soon as possible. She suggested the possibility of holding a workshop with the land users to establish these indicators. She said that the indicators proposed in the Chisasibi Wildlife Habitat Work Force could also be used to identify what constitutes a healthy eelgrass bed.

Mr. Dunn suggested that Ms. Durocher go over Mr. Idrobo's proposal with him.

Mr. Courcelles reminded the attendees that earlier in the meeting, it was agreed that the SC members should be given about two weeks to read Mr. Idrobo's proposal and send their comments to Mr. Dunn.

Mr. Pachano said that he has comments concerning Mr. Idrobo's proposal. He said that the Crees have an idea of when these geese come back and of when the habitat has recovered. He said that they know how long it takes for the geese to come back. As an example, he said that the geese usually do not come back for about five years after a forest fire.

Mr. Dunn said that geese are resilient and that we should add that to the questionnaire.

## **5) FIELD LOGISTICS**

### **a. Update**

Mr. Rabbitskin said he had nothing more to add to what had already been said.

### **b. Helicopter incident of June 6, 2019**

Mr. Dunn stressed how important it is that the helicopter pilot follow the instructions concerning the no-fly zone along the coast. He said that "do not fly in the no-fly zone" is crystal clear; follow the instructions.

### **c. Accommodations in Chisasibi**

Mr. Rabbitskin said that we need to find accommodations for the researchers. He said that the issue has been taken care of in Eastmain, but we still need a more permanent place where the different research teams can stay in Wemindji.

Mr. Dunn said that he has contacted the owner of a mobile home in Chisasibi. He said that it is in need of repair and we will need to buy some furniture.

After discussion, it was suggested that Mr. Dunn and Mr. Gilbert go visit the mobile home to see whether it would meet the needs of the researchers.

The meeting paused at 12:10 p.m. and resumed at 1:27 p.m.

## **6) DATA SHARING BETWEEN THE RESEARCHERS**

Mr. Dunn said that there is a lack of trust between ISMER and UNH with respect to the transfer of data. Mr. Dunn summarized the situation as follows: UNH asked ISMER to transfer some data to them, which they needed for their final report. ISMER agreed, but under certain conditions. ISMER then sent UNH a one-page data transfer protocol for signature, but so far, UNH has not signed it. Mr. Dunn said that UNH's contract ends on June 30, 2019, which is also Dr. Short's deadline for submitting his final report to Niskamoon. He said that in the meantime, Niskamoon is holding back the remaining payments due to UNH.

Mr. Tapiatic asked what can be done if Mr. Short does not send us his report. He said that Niskamoon has paid him a lot of money already.

Mr. Dunn said that we will take him to court. He said that the SC will determine whether his final report is satisfactory and complies with the terms of reference set out in his contract.

Mr. Pachano said that we do not want just an activity report.

Ms. Durocher said that we should not force ISMER to send UNH the data if the later has not signed the data transfer protocol.

Mr. Dunn said that the website UNH was supposed to set up to enable the researchers to exchange data is not working; therefore UNH must send all the data to Niskamoon.

Mr. Dunn said that he will contact Strata 360 in connection with this issue.

## **7) LETTER SENT BY NISKAMOON TO GEORGE LAMEBOY, JOHN LAMEBOY AND BOB LAMEBOY**

Mr. Dunn showed a letter on screen dated May 29, 2019, from William MacLeod, Chairman of the Niskamoon Corporation to George Lameboy, tallyman of trapline CH5, John Lameboy, goose boss of trapline CH5 and Bob Lameboy, goose boss of trapline CH5. A copy was appended to the minutes.

Mr. Dunn said that Mr. MacLeod's letter was sent in response to a previous letter sent to him on April 2, 2019.

Mr. Pachano requested that Mr. Dunn show the April 2, 2019, letter on screen.

Mr. Dunn showed an email on screen, dated April 2, 2019, to Mr. MacLeod from George Lameboy, kiniwaapimaakin, tallyman (CH-5), John Lameboy, paachichaauchimaau, goose boss (CH-5) and Bob Lameboy, paaschichaauchimaau, goose boss (CH-5). A copy was appended to the minutes. Mr. Dunn said that there was another letter dated April 26, 2019, from Charles Thomas Sealhunter, kiniwaapimaakin, tallyman (CH-4), Yvon Sealhunter, paachichaauchimaau, goose boss (CH-4), Henry Potts, paachichaauchimaau, goose boss (CH-4), Jacob Potts, paachichaauchimaau, goose boss (CH-4), and Alec Bobbish, paachichaauchimaau, goose boss (CH-4) to Mr. William MacLeod, Chairman, Niskamoon Corporation. A copy was appended to the minutes. Mr. Dunn said that Niskamoon had received the letter at the beginning of June and that an answer was being prepared by Niskamoon.

Mr. Pachano asked whether Niskamoon had started developing goose feeding grounds.

Mr. Dunn answered in the affirmative and explained that Niskamoon had had to stop temporarily because the person hired by Niskamoon to coordinate the work had left for another job. Mr. Dunn said that Niskamoon intends to continue developing goose feeding grounds and that it is just a matter of getting organized.

Mr. Tapiatic said that part of the issue is that the CH-4 tallyman has not sent the machinery used to develop the goose feeding grounds back to Niskamoon.

A discussion followed, partly in English and partly in Cree, concerning the equipment still held by the CH-4 tallyman.

Mr. Dunn said that there is money for the goose enhancement program at the CNC Finance Department.

Mr. Kanatewat said that the trappers cannot access that money.

Mr. Dunn said he would write a letter to the CNC and local Niskamoon officer to inform them that the funds must be made available to all coastal land users, whether they are affected or not.

Mr. Tapiatic said that sometimes, a tallyman will not authorize Niskamoon to fund a project to be carried out on his trapline. He said that Niskamoon cannot ignore the tallyman's decision concerning the enhancement proposals it receives.

Mr. Dunn said that Niskamoon does not provide legal support and is not involved in environmental approvals for projects.

**8) UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE MANDATE**  
**a. Non-renewal of research agreement**

Mr. Dunn said that this item was already covered when they discussed items 3) and 4).

## **b. Revision of New Hampshire's mandate**

Mr. Dunn said that UNH's contract is still in effect, as it does not end until June 30, 2019. He said that Niskamoon has held back the final payment from last year. He said that Niskamoon will conduct a complete revision of the contract, including all expenses incurred, once it has received all the documents from UNH.

## **9) COMMUNICATION PLAN, ACTION PLAN AND NEWSLETTER**

### **a. January 2019 symposium report and minutes**

Ms. Sinave joined the meeting by conference call.

Mr. Courcelles said that it is practically impossible to write minutes for the symposium held in January 2019, because many of the participants expressed themselves in Cree. In many cases, there was no one to translate (i.e., interpret) what they were saying and even when there was an interpreter, the translation was not necessarily an accurate reflection of what the participant was saying in Cree. He said that in such circumstances, it is almost impossible to write minutes that properly convey the exchanges taking place. Mr. Courcelles said that Ms. Bois-Charlebois sent all the SC members the notes from the workshop held at the end of the symposium.

Ms. Durocher said that she would send the notes to all the researchers.

Mr. Pachano asked whether the notes can be grouped by topic.

Ms. Sinave answered that this can be done.

### **b. Newsletter**

Ms. Durocher reviewed the Summer 2019 Newsletter. A copy was appended to the minutes.

Ms. Sinave said that the next newsletter should talk about the Rivers and Oceanography studies.

Ms. Durocher informed Ms. Sinave that during the discussion on geese the SC held earlier in the day, it was agreed that the next newsletter would talk about geese and promote the recovery of bands and booklets.

Ms. Sinave asked when the Summer 2019 Newsletter will be published.

Mr. Dunn said that the Summer 2019 Newsletter has been reviewed and mistakes corrected. He said that it is ready to be published.

The SC authorized the release of the Summer 2019 Newsletter. It was decided that the publication would be distributed as follows:

- Waskaganish: 100 copies
- Eastmain: 75 copies
- Wemindji: 75 copies

- Chisasibi: 150 copies
- Montréal and CNG: 150 copies

Mr. Pachano said that copies should be provided for the CTA's Annual General Meeting.

Ms. Sinave said that a meeting will be held with the CTA at the end of July and that the booklets are still being collected.

### **c. Past and future actions**

Mr. Dunn said that it was requested that an eelgrass project logo be designed. He said that we could have jackets sporting the logo made and distributed to the land users who are participating in the project, as well as to the researchers and SC members.

### **10) ARCTIC NET – HALIFAX – DECEMBER 2 TO 5, 2019**

Mr. Tremblay said that the correct name of the conference is Arctic Change and that Arctic Net is the network developed by Arctic Change.

Mr. Tremblay said that the conference will be held in Halifax this year and will have the same format as the one the SC committee attended in Québec City back in 2017. He said that we should take advantage of the fact that most of the researchers working on the eelgrass program will be there and call an SC meeting with them to go over the research they've done in 2019. We should also use it as an opportunity to hold a regular SC meeting.

Mr. Dunn said that he will have to prepare a budget to be submitted at the next Niskamoon board meeting next September. He said that he will ask the various research teams whether they will be attending the conference in Halifax.

After discussion, the SC decided to hold its regular meeting on Monday, December 2, 2019, at 9 a.m., at the Halifax Convention Center.

### **11) NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held in Chisasibi on August 20 & 21, 2019.

Ms. Durocher suggested inviting representatives of the eelgrass team and Mr. Idrobo to come and meet the SC members if they are in Chisasibi at that time.

### **12) MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2019**

Mr. Dunn suggested creating a subcommittee to organize the 2020 Eelgrass Symposium in Chisasibi.

After discussion, the SC agreed that Ms. Durocher, Mr. Pachano and Ms. Sinave will see to the organization of the 2020 Eelgrass Symposium.


**13) TO DO LIST**

The to do list was deferred to the next meeting.

**14) MISCELLANEOUS**

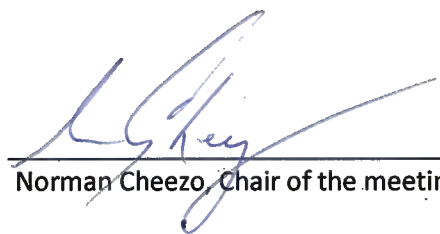
No other items were added.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.



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Marc Dunn, Chair of the meeting



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Norman Cheezo, Chair of the meeting



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Réal Courcelles, Secretary