

Saskatchewan River Sturgeon Management Board

March 5, 2015 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Victoria Inn – Flin Flon, MB

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Raymond Lathlin, Opaskwayak Cree Nation  
Diane Ballantyne, Opaskwayak Cree Nation Resource Council  
Ron Campbell, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship  
Marilynn Kullman, Manitoba Hydro  
Gary Carriere, Cumberland House Fishermen's Co-Op  
Lennard Morin, Cumberland House  
Ron Hlasny, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment  
Marcy Bast, SaskPower

1. Opening prayer - Ray
2. Introductions
3. General discussion including index fishing report, management plan and juvenile population assessment proposed to start in 2015:

Gary - noted that fishermen are seeing more juvenile sturgeon in Cumberland Lake over past 2 years  
Marilynn – will post the final index fishing report and management plan to website once she receives them from Marcy

Gary – wants universities involved in research on sturgeon because they will have more access to money for projects

Diane – noted past experience with OCN and university researchers from Winnipeg, they came with money to the board and did their work and it did not provide the information that OCN had anticipated. They used their own money and not enough benefit was realized in the community

Gary – sturgeon fishing was a livelihood that was taken away

**ACTION:** Marcy and Marilyn will talk to university researchers to determine how their programs work, and whether they could contribute to work of the management plan

Ron C – talked about using UCN to do a study, and they used their own money and equipment and then provided it to the board

Lennard – wants to commercially fish for sturgeon. There is interest in Cumberland House to fish for sturgeon even if it is not allowed. The fishermen want to keep index fishing. Spawning is important and needs to be investigated

Some general discussion about proposed juvenile population assessments/research starting in the fall of 2015. There is concern that it will be difficult to achieve a consistent approach across SK and MB. The group agreed with the concept of the plan for juvenile research, and there is time between now and the fall to determine fishers, locations, and logistics of the work.

Diane – noted her concern with OCNs role in the program, and stressed that they want participation of their fishers and also the collegiate outdoors program. She wants OCN to have a role in what is going on with the board, as she feels in the past that there has not been enough collaboration/communication with the province, despite having partnership agreements and programs with them

Ron C – noted that he feels the invitation has always been there, and that there will be opportunities for students to get out and experience the work as well. There is a resource management assistant from OCN.

**ACTION:** Marcy committed to setting up contract with North/South Consulting to ensure that OCN is involved in the study design and kept in the loop regarding times that the crews will be on the river so that coordination can happen with any interested youth or other groups that wish to see the work

General discussion regarding the importance of consistency for both the new juvenile program and the adult index fishing that will continue alternating years with the juvenile work. There are still concerns that SK is netting fish in a very different manner and it will be difficult to standardize the results between SK and MB. In SK the fishers focus on areas where sturgeon are present, and the other reaches are not sampled at all. MB has set areas that they net regardless of catch, which provides a better picture of the population.

Ron C – noted how he pays his fishers, it is a base \$150/day for boat rental. Then he supplies gas and oil and forms to be completed for tagged fish. He is also on the river for the duration of the work, which is not feasible in SK.

**ACTION:** North/South will be in contact with both Gary Carriere (SK) and Ron Campbell (MB), including Diane at OCN

#### 4. New co-chair term

Ron Hlasny (SK Environment) and Diane Ballantyne (OCN) will be co-chairs for a 2 year term (4 meetings) starting at the fall meeting planned for November 17 in Prince Albert.

5. Next meeting

Scheduled for November 17 in Prince Albert. Will be organized by Ron H and Diane.

6. Closing prayer, adjourn