

MEETING MINUTES

Saskatchewan River Sturgeon Management Board

April 17th, 2019

Victoria Inn, Flin Flon MB

10.00 am to 1.00 pm

In attendance

Ian Kitch, Manitoba Sustainable Development

Ron Campbell, Manitoba Sustainable Development

Gary Carriere, Cumberland House Fishermen's Co-op

Irvin Constant, Opaskwayak Commercial Fishermen's Co-op

Diane Ballantyne, Opaskwayak Cree Nation

Marcy Bast, SaskPower

Stephanie Backhouse, Manitoba Hydro

Ryan Carriere, Cumberland House Metis Local (by phone)

John Carriere, Cumberland House (by phone)

1. Opening prayer – Gary
2. Introduction of members
3. Additions or changes to the agenda
4. Reviewing action items and accepting the minutes from December 6, 2018 meeting -

Discussion: Gary noted that we should be mimicking the natural flows and flood in spring when naturally flooding

ACTION: Marcy will update the terms to remove the need that chairs are required from a certain group, anyone can be nominated

- September 8-13 North American Sturgeon and Paddlefish Conference

(<http://www.nasps-sturgeon.org/conferences/north-american-conference-announcements.aspx>)

- Board indicated interest in having information about SRSMB presented
- **ACTION:** Stephanie will prepare abstract and circulate for board approval
- Ron asked if there was a comparison of all data between boards/areas and Stephanie noted that the information is together in the COSEWIC review document
- The joint meeting (SRSMB, Nelson River Sturgeon Board and Kischi Sipi Namao Committee) occurred in Thompson during March, and the hope is that a similar meeting will happen again and become a regular discussion

- Diane noted that the students from OCN that attended appreciated all of the information, and hopes in future at a similar meeting that a woman can attend as a chaperone for some girls to attend who were interested
- Ron mentioned a presentation he did at Clearwater Lake and included some information on the SRSMB, and the students were very interested
- Ryan and John Carriere joined the call, Ryan is working on some translation for the sturgeon puzzle information that Stephanie provided
- The Water Festival is June 6, 2019 and OCN will participate. Kelsey Conservation organizes the festival, and Ron will try to participate as well during index netting
- The AFSAR funding was not applied for due to time constraints, but Manitoba Conservation will assist OCN with funding application support for this year
- Ian mentioned that they and OCN applied jointly for the fish enhancement fund in MB to get a summer student for OCN so they can participate with the province on upcoming field work
- ACTION:** agenda item for the fall will include invasive species (mussel) updates
- MB noted that they will have similar program for monitoring for invasive mussels in 2019 and will have extended hours at some of the stations this year
- ACTION:** Diane asked that OCN have an opportunity to staff the monitoring stations close to the Pas, and Ian will discuss further with her
- John asked whether the SK government knew that they need to fish at night for goldeye, and recommended they change that method for Tobin and other lakes

5. Membership: changes and updates – Diane noted that OCN is still reorganizing and her involvement is term until June and she will update the board when she knows. Easterville has expressed interest in participating on the SRSMB as they have a lot of sturgeon in their area, but the question has been with respect to funding for participation and netting.

ACTION: Stephanie will have discussions internally to determine if funds would be available to include Cedar Lake in the netting program. It would double their financial contribution to the board.

John mentioned an environmental study with OCN and CH and all communities were invited (70 communities involved in sturgeon study), and the meetings were in the Pas and everyone participated to talk about sturgeon. He discussed some history of the communities that got together to discuss sturgeon fishing.

ACTION: Marcy will check with DFO and WSA to see if they are able to attend.

Gary asked about honorariums for their participation, suggested \$300 a day.

Irvin commented on the board and efforts of the group, and noted that he sensed negative tones about the impacts and concerns. Irvin said we talk about SaskPower and the province and Manitoba Hydro, and we did not do this but we are trying to achieve something beyond that impact. During this process, the people being affected in their livelihood had received some compensation, but are currently lowest paid in the country. Irvin has asked about compensation for attending the meetings, and also asked that the board be professional and respectful and honoring the people at the table and not

blaming and being negative. John mentioned their self-imposed moratorium on sturgeon fishing to improve, and agrees with an honorarium.

ACTION: Stephanie will discuss with Marcy the honorariums and how those are applied.

ACTION: Ian will invite the additional communities to the next meeting to have a discussion on their interest. If additional funding could be obtained.

6. Discussion of proposed sturgeon work for 2019 – Ron noted that when we started with sturgeon monitoring it was intended as a long-term project. Juvenile monitoring will be done this year in the fall. The intention was that OCN takes the program, so they can try this year starting in September. Diane wants to coordinate some youth involvement also. Ryan will also want to coordinate with the students to observe some of that work. In SK the work will be done by a consultant and hired assistants from CH. Ron noted that fall is the best time for the young of the year and smaller juveniles.
7. Other 2019 activities – continued information sharing and student information tools (puzzles, pamphlets, stuffed sturgeon weighing)
8. Budgets – Gary mentioned the potential of partnering with U of S to do some of the work rather than increases of budget. Both Manitoba Hydro and SaskPower will contribute their respective 20K as usual to board activities with potential increases where feasible to allow attendance of other communities in Manitoba
9. Review joint meeting with KSNC/NRSB/SRSMB - above
10. Next meeting – December 5, 2019 in Prince Albert, SK
11. Closing prayer - Diane
12. Meeting adjourned ~ 1.00