

MINUTES

Saskatchewan River Sturgeon Management Board Fall Meeting

November 17, 2011

The Pas, MB – Kikiwak Inn (Lathlin Room) – 9:30am to 2:30pm

Attendance

Members:

Marilynn Kullman (for Shelley Matkowski, co-chair) – Manitoba Hydro
Lennard Morin – Cumberland House Fisherman's Co-op
Grant McVittie – Manitoba Water Stewardship – Fisheries
Ron Campbell – Manitoba Water Stewardship – Fisheries
Diane Ballantyne (for Mary Head) – Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN) Natural Resources
Marcy Bast – SaskPower

Guests:

Michael Pollock – Saskatchewan Watershed Authority (SWA) (by phone, part of meeting)
Rob Wallace (science advisor) – Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (ENV)
Raymond Lathlin (elder) – Opaskwayak Cree Nation

Regrets:

Ron Hlasny (co-chair) – Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (ENV)

1. **Opening prayer** – Diane
2. **Introductions** – New members or alternates introduced themselves
3. **Review agenda** – No items were added
4. **Review minutes of Feb 23, 2011 (Prince Albert) meeting** – Not available.
5. **Reports of activities in 2011**

Ron: High water flows caused problems with fishing so only 60 captures: collected age materials and tissue samples for diseases (by Sharon Clouthier DFO). Mark-recapture data went to Rob recently for analysis. Ron still wants communities of Chemawawin and Mosakahiken to join Board since sturgeon are caught in Cedar Lake and other areas. Manitoba Hydro funds were received, but DFO's HSP funds were not received yet. Ron's written report was provided to Co-chair. Grant noted the call for HSP funding is Nov 18 (tomorrow) and DFO needs to improve. Grant would interrupt the mark-recapture work and use HSP funding for other projects, except for the deadlines.

Rob: Mark-recap data for last few years was only added to database recently. Checking the data for errors in the field or data-entry will take longer. There are too many fish called 'Recap' that cannot be traced to previous catches. Rob apologized, but results now would not be reliable. Lennard does not want blame for this to reflect on Project Workers and will not accept any.

Action: Rob will resolve the problem and provide results before the Spring meeting.

Lennard (later in meeting): No report on index fishing was done for ENV or SaskPower. Marcy said they don't need one since their contract was with ENV. Workers selected by Cumberland House

Fishermens Coop were involved with the salvage of live sturgeon at E.B.Campbell in August. Project workers and index fishers liked the quick payments in 2011 from ENV and SaskPower funds.

6. Review of Ten-Year Management Plan

a) reports/info

- Marcy asked North/South for a draft review, it was circulated among members, and North/South needs comments to be finalized by Dec 31st. The intent is to have a new plan for 2012, the last year of the old plan.
- Marilyn noted comments about "missing" meant items are not on website and someone should have them
- Grant and Rob both noted that getting greater precision for sturgeon abundance or trends is difficult
- Marilyn said Table 5 (Gaps & Considerations) is important to consider and comment on.
- Marcy wants focus on revised Goals for Board since SARA listing may be a huge issue. Lennard noted these should be SRSMB goals (not DFO's goals), formal consultations are set for Cumberland House and The Pas before March, and there was an ATK workshop in Winnipeg in 2011.
- Grant did not get requests for data or updates from North/South. Marcy confirmed N/S was told to use what exists and add/revise later. Grant has ages for 1960-1990 that should be added.
- Rob noted that the ENV egg & stocking program ceased due to poor hatch or loss of most fry in some years and unknown benefits of stocking, rather than staff and resources.
- Rob noted the Plan (pages vi/vii) could show the four Board targets (from a 2006 meeting) and then the DFO target. Ron added another: use ATK and surveys of elders to learn traditional sites for sturgeon and work to have sturgeon return to those sites. Grant wants page 7 edited to show Board may or may not necessarily accept the DFO target.

Action: Board members to provide data and comments by Dec 17th (in one month).

Action: Rob will provide the Board targets and a shorter description of the DFO target.

b) future activities:

Grant: MWS wants to use Index Fishing funds for other priorities, such as tracking movements and habitat uses. MB may have funds for that, does SK agree with that? Lennard noted SK is already studying those and would not agree to reducing or cutting Index Fishing. Marcy noted SWA tracking with acoustic tags has only one more year and covers areas upstream of E.B.Campbell dam.

Lennard "absolutely supports" Index Fishing to continue in SK. Ron agrees with that in general.

7. Recovery Team

Rob described the progress to date on a Recovery Strategy for DU2 (Sask River): Management Units were established; Threats were completed; Objectives were described; and team is working on Critical Habitat that SARA requires.

Grant noted that Shane Petry (DFO Lethbridge) who leads the recovery team must follow DFO protocols, even when members ask for changes, and teams on all five DUs are frustrated. The MB review of DFO's Socio Economic Analysis was led by Barb Scaife. Other reviews by SK and AB were done.

Marilynn noted most DFO discussions, socio-economic reports, and targets for DUs do not address

Aboriginal fishing anywhere.

8. Co-chairs

Marcy reminded members that the format for the Board is a SK community co-chair and a MB non-community co-chair (either industry or government).

Ron nominated Lennard for SK community and Board members agreed; Lennard accepted.

Marcy nominated Marilyn for MB non-community and members agreed; Marilyn accepted.

Members thanked Lennard for his interest over the years and Marilyn for taking on duties recently.

9. Next meeting:

Date set for 2012 April 12 (Thursday) in Cumberland House. Accommodations are in Nipawin.

- There will be a Board meeting in morning and a community meeting in afternoon.
- Diane noted this avoids a busy week in The Pas.
- Lennard asked for a presentation on SaskPower dam safety, possibly to the meeting.
- Marcy will ask Shane Petry to present a summary of the work by the Recovery Team on DU2.

Marilyn asked for official list of Board members and other interested groups:

- Marcy said Vincent Harper (DFO) declines further attendance due to DFO refocusing its tasks.
- Marcy said SK 'First Nations & Metis Relations' ministry declined to renew its participation.
- Lennard Morin represents Cumberland House Fishermens Co-op Inc 1999 Ltd)
- Mary Head represents OCN Natrual Resources, alternate is Diane Ballantyne
- Raymond Lathlin is elder for Opaskwayak Cree Nation
- ? missing name for MB Sask River Fishermen (or Opaskwayak Fishermen)
- Ron Campbell for MWS
- Ron Hlasny for Sask Ministry of Environment (to be confirmed by Marcy)
- Marilyn Kullman for Manitoba Hydro
- Marcy Bast for SaskPower

10. Closing prayer:

by Raymond

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