

Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board

This annual report of the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) covers the period from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 and outlines the activities of the EMRWB during this period in fulfillment of its mandate as set out in Chapter 13 of the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement (EMRLCA).

This report also serves as the Annual Activity Report that is required to be submitted by the EMRWB pursuant to Annex 5 of the *Funding Agreement between the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada* (Agreement No.: 1314 – 01 – 000204).

The EMRWB was established under the EMRLCA as the main instrument of Wildlife management and the main regulator of access to Wildlife in the Eeyou Marine Region. This Agreement covers the offshore area surrounding the Province of Quebec known as the Eeyou Marine Region (EMR). The EMRWB is made up of seven members, composed of three members nominated by the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee, one recommended by the Government of Nunavut, two recommended by the Government of Canada plus a jointly nominated Chairperson.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board is to serve as the main instrument of Wildlife management and the main regulator of access to Wildlife in the Eeyou Marine Region. The EMRWB works closely with the Cree Trappers Association in carrying out its mandate. It is involved in research on Wildlife in the EMR and manages a special \$5 million Wildlife Research Fund. The primary functions of the EMRWB include:

- Establishing, modifying or removing levels of Total Allowable Take for species, stock or population of Wildlife, other than anadromous fish spawning in Québec
- Ascertaining and adjusting the Basic Needs Level for a species, stock or population of Wildlife, other than the anadromous fish spawning in Québec
- Establishing, modifying or removing Non-quota Limitations
- Participating in research

- Cooperating with other Wildlife management institutions which deal with species that are harvested in the EMR and migrate outside the EMR
- Providing advice to any other management institutions as requested on all matters relating to management, conservation, protection and regulation of Wildlife and Wildlife habitat.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EMRWB

The EMRWB is an institution of public government that was established pursuant to the provisions of the *Agreement between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada Concerning the Eeyou Marine Region*, also known as the *Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement* (EMRLCA), which was signed by the respective parties on July 7, 2010.

The mandate for the EMRWB is set out under Chapter 13 of the EMRLCA, which specifies that the EMRWB is to serve as the main instrument of Wildlife management and the main regulator of access to Wildlife in the Eeyou Marine Region. The provisions of the EMRLCA, including the establishment of the EMRWB with the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person, were given effect by the *Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement Act* and came into force, by Order of the Government of Canada, on February 15, 2012.

However, the EMRWB only became operationally effective after: the members of the board had been officially appointed to their positions by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, the Nunavut Government or the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee; and, the members had been sworn in at the initial meeting of the members, which took place in Montreal on February 19-20, 2013.

MANDATE

As noted above, the mandate for the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board is set out in Chapter 13 of the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement. In particular, the role and responsibilities of the EMRWB are set out in subsections 13.2.1, 13.2.2 and 13.3.3 of the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement.

These provisions of the EMRLCA are set out as follows:

13.2.1

The EMRWB shall be the main instrument of Wildlife management in the EMR and the main regulator of access to Wildlife and have the primary responsibility in relation thereto in the manner described in this Agreement. Accordingly, the EMRWB shall perform the following functions, taking into account the provisions of this Part III:

- (a) *establishing, modifying or removing levels of Total Allowable Take for a species, stock or population of Wildlife, other than anadromous fish spawning in Québec, in accordance with section 13.5;*
- (b) *ascertaining the Basic Needs Level for a species, stock or population of Wildlife, other than anadromous fish spawning in Québec, in accordance with section 13.6;*
- (c) *adjusting the Basic Needs Level for a species, stock or population of Wildlife, other than anadromous fish spawning in Québec, in accordance with section 13.7;*
- (d) *allocating from the Total Allowable Take opportunities to Harvest a species, stock or population of Wildlife, other than anadromous fish spawning in Québec, in accordance with section 11.4;*
- (e) *establishing, modifying or removing Non quota Limitations in accordance with section 13.8;*
- (f) *participating in research in accordance with section 13.3;*
- (g) *determining sufficiency of information and identifying and undertaking measures necessary to obtain the information to enable it to establish the Basic Needs Levels in accordance with section 13.6;*
- (h) *cooperating with other Wildlife management institutions which deal with species that are Harvested in the EMR and migrate outside the EMR;*
- (i) *setting any trophy fees on Wildlife Harvested in the EMR;*
- (j) *providing advice to any other management institutions as requested on all matters relating to management, conservation, protection and regulation of Wildlife and Wildlife habitat; and*

- (k) *any other function the EMRWB is required to perform by this Agreement and not specifically referred to in Part III.*

13.2.2

In addition to its primary functions outlined in subsection 13.2.1, the EMRWB may in its discretion perform the following functions related to management and protection of Wildlife and Wildlife habitat:

- (a) *except for National Parks, National Park Reserves, National Marine Conservation Areas, National Marine Conservation Area Reserves and Territorial Parks, approve the establishment, disestablishment, and changes to boundaries of Protected Areas and Marine Protected Areas;*
- (b) *identify Wildlife management zones and areas of high biological productivity and provide recommendations to the EMRPC with respect to planning in those areas;*
- (c) *approve plans for management and protection of particular Wildlife habitats or critical habitats including areas within Protected Areas;*
- (d) *approve plans for:*
 - (i) *management, classification, protection, restocking or propagation, cultivation or husbandry of species or populations of Wildlife;*
 - (ii) *the regulation of imported non indigenous species and the management of transplanted Wildlife populations;*
- (e) *provide advice to departments, the Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review Board and other concerned agencies and appropriate Persons regarding mitigation measures and compensation to be required from commercial and industrial developers which cause damage to Wildlife habitat;*
- (f) *approve designation of species at risk;*

- (g) *provide advice as to requirements for the promotion of education, information and training of Crees for Wildlife management; and*
- (h) *any other functions assigned to it by this Agreement*

13.3.3

Further to its responsibilities in subsection 13.3.1, the EMRWB shall:

- (a) *establish and maintain an open file system for all raw and interpreted Wildlife data and information regardless of its source;*
- (b) *promote and encourage training for Crees in the various fields of Wildlife research and management;*
- (c) *promote and encourage the employment of Crees and the use of Cree Enterprises in research and technical positions made available through Government and private sector research contracts; and*
- (d) *prior to carrying out research, communicate and cooperate with residents of Eeyou Istchee and Consult with the GDO and other Cree Entities likely to be affected.*

MEMBERS OF THE EMRWB

As provided for under subsection 13.1.1 of the EMRLCA, the membership of the EMRWB is to consist of seven members of whom three (3) members shall be appointed by the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee; one (1) member shall be appointed by the federal minister responsible for fish and marine mammals; one (1) member shall be appointed by the federal minister responsible for the Canadian Wildlife Service; one (1) member shall be appointed by the Minister responsible for Wildlife of the Government of Nunavut; plus a Chairperson who is to be jointly nominated by the other members. The Chairperson is the seventh member of the EMRWB and, after nomination by the other members must be appointed by the federal minister responsible for fish and marine mammals in consultation with the other federal minister and jointly with the Nunavut minister.

At the time of the initial meeting of the EMRWB, which was held in Montreal on February 19-20, 2013, the membership of the Board consisted of the Government and Cree members shown below whom all had been duly appointed by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee or the Nunavut Government.

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA APPOINTEES Jules Dufour (DFO) Claude Saint-Charles (CWS)	NUNAVUT GOVERNMENT APPOINTEE Peter Kattuk
GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES APPOINTEES Isaac Masty Roderick Pachano Aurélie Bourbeau-Lemieux	

However, at the initial meeting of the members of the board, it was agreed by the unanimous vote of the members that Roderick Pachano should be nominated to serve as the permanent Chairperson of the EMRWB (Resolution 2013-03). A letter to this effect was subsequently sent to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. The appointment of Roderick Pachano as the permanent Chairperson for the EMRWB was confirmed by the Minister in a letter dated October 22, 2013.

Following the process set out in subsections 13.1.1 and 14.1.5 of the EMRLCA, Bert Moar was then appointed by the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee to serve as their third member in replacement of Roderick Pachano.

At the end of the 2013-2014 fiscal year, the membership of the board was therefore as follows.

CHAIRPERSON Roderick Pachano	
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA APPOINTEES Jules Dufour (DFO) Claude Saint-Charles (CWS)	NUNAVUT GOVERNMENT APPOINTEE Peter Kattuk
GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES APPOINTEES Isaac Masty Bert Moar Aurélie Bourbeau-Lemieux	

MEETINGS OF THE EMRWB

According to the by-laws of the EMRWB (sub-section 9.1), the Board “shall meet at least twice a year, and may meet as often as it deems fit.” The EMRWB held four full meetings during FY 2013-2014, which were all meetings that were jointly held with the members of the Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission (EMRPC) and the Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review Board (EMRIRB). The dates and locations of the joint meetings that were held during the first two years of the operation of these three EMRLCA mandated institutions of public government are shown in the table below.

Meeting No.	Date of Meeting	Location
Meeting # 1	February 19-20, 2013	Montreal
Meeting # 2	April 23-24, 2013	Montreal

Meeting # 3	June 27-28, 1013	Ottawa
Meeting # 4	October 22-23, 2013	Montreal
Meeting # 5	February 18-19, 2014	Chisasibi

ESTABLISH OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE EMRWB

Under the provisions of EMRLCA (14.4.1) the EMRWB may make by-laws and rules respecting:

- a) the calling of meetings and sittings of the EMRWB;
- b) the conduct of business at meetings of the EMRWB and the establishment of special and standing committees of the EMRWB and the fixing of quorums for committee meetings;
- c) the carrying on of the work of the EMRWB, the management of its internal affairs, and the duties of its officers and employees;
- d) the procedure for making applications, representations and complaints to the EMRWB;
- e) the procedure for collecting information and opinion, including the procedure and conduct of public hearings; and
- f) generally, the manner of conducting any business before the EMRWB.

The General By-Laws of the EMRWB were reviewed and approved by the EMRWB at the meeting of the members of the Board that was held on April 23-24, 2013 in Montreal.

During FY 2013-2014 material was collected related to the operational guidelines and the rules of procedure that have been put in place by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and by the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board. This material will be made

available when the staff of the EMRWB is hired and will be of assistance in terms of preparing a formal set of Governance Policies for review and approval by the members of the EMRWB in FY 2014-2015.

ESTABLISH HEAD OFFICE OF THE EMRWB

As specified under subsection 14.2.2 of the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement, the EMRWB is required to establish its head office in Eeyou Istchee. In addition to this stipulation, the members of the EMRWB were aware that the *EMRLCA Implementation Plan* specifies that the staff and offices of the EMR Impact Review Board (EMRIRB) are to be shared and co-located with those of the EMR Planning Commission (EMRPC). Taking these and other factors into account, at the joint meeting of the members of the EMRWB, EMRPC and EMRIRB that was held on April 23-24, 2013 in Montreal it was decided that the offices of all three of these EMR boards would be co-located and that the community within Eeyou Istchee in which these offices would be located would be Chisasibi.

However, in order for this objective to become a reality, a number of operational and administrative concerns needed to be jointly addressed by the members of the three EMR boards. In particular, negotiations with the Cree Nation of Chisasibi had to be undertaken with regard to leasing office space in Chisasibi for the necessary office space for the combined employee complement for the three EMR boards as well as with respect to the availability of staff housing for the employees that would have to be relocated to the community of Chisasibi.

In order to prepare for the negotiations with the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, the members of the three EMR boards determined the amount of funds that would be available for these purposes, the number of offices that would be necessary for the use of staff and chairpersons, the common use areas required for map tables, computer servers, and a boardroom for various types of meetings. The square footage of office space was calculated taking these requirements into account. At the joint board meeting that was held in Chisasibi on February 18-19, 2014 the members toured two potential sites for the location of the proposed EMR offices. It was also determined that housing was available for the staff that would have to be relocated to Chisasibi.

Unfortunately, although negotiations over the leasing of the required office space continued throughout FY 2013-2014 the parties were unable to successfully conclude the leasing arrangements. This meant that no rental or leasehold improvement costs were incurred during the fiscal year. The negotiations will continue in FY 2014-2015 and may also involve similar negotiations with other Cree communities in Eeyou Istchee.

In addition to making the necessary arrangements for the required office space and staff housing, the members of the three EMR boards will need to arrange for the purchase and delivery of the office furniture, supplies, and equipment required for the effective functioning of the EMR head office. This will be accomplished through purchase arrangements with local suppliers, wherever possible, and by way of delivering furniture and supplies from outside the region. Arrangements were made for a person in Chisasibi to assist in this process but were not proceeded with as the office leasing negotiations had not reached a successful conclusion. This means that there were no start up costs incurred during FY 2013-2014 by the three EMR boards in relation to office furniture, supplies, and equipment and so these funds will need to be carried forward to FY 2014-2015.

ENGAGE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES FOR CONDUCT OF EMRWB BUSINESS

As specified in subsection 14.5.1 of EMRLCA, within its approved budget, the officers and employees necessary for the proper conduct of business of the EMRWB are to be engaged and remunerated by the EMRWB. The staff positions that are anticipated as being hired by the EMRWB are set out in Sheet # 14-1 of the *EMRLCA Implementation Plan* and consist of a Wildlife Management Director, a Wildlife Liaison Officer and an Administrative Assistant.

During the 2013-2014 fiscal reporting period the members of EMRWB took the necessary steps to define the job descriptions for these three positions and to initiate recruitment activities in this regard. An interview committee was also formed with representation from the members of the EMRWB and an approach was agreed upon with respect to how the interviews of the candidates would be conducted. In particular, it was agreed by the members that the initial focus would be on hiring the Wildlife Management Director and that, after that position had been filled, the director could participate in the hiring process for the other two positions. As well, as the Administrative Assistant position was intended to be a “local hire” position and because

the location of the EMR head office had not been finalized, the members of the EMRWB decided that they would not fill the Administrative Assistant position until the location of the EMR head office had been confirmed and the director had been hired.

At the meeting of the members of the EMRWB that was held on February 18, 2014 it was reported that the job posting for the Wildlife Management Director position had resulted in an insufficient number of applications and that a second round of the posting had been necessary. In this regard it was noted that the closing of this second posting would be on February 28, 2014. It was also reported that the job posting had been revised slightly and that it had been distributed more widely in order to solicit additional applications. However, it was specified that the same screening and interview process would apply to the second round of the posting.

As none of the EMRWB staff positions had been filled during FY 2013-2014, there were no costs incurred by the board in relation to staff salaries and benefits or for staff operational travel. There were also no staff relocation costs incurred during the fiscal year although there were recruiting costs incurred with regard to placing advertisements for the Wildlife Management Director position and in relation to the costs of interviewing the selected candidates for the position. The relocation costs for this position and for the Wildlife Liaison Officer position will need to be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

In order to compensate for the lack of an Administrative Assistant, the members of the EMRWB considered various approaches related to developing an offer of services for the provision of day-to-day accounting and bookkeeping services. With regard to the provision of basic accounting and bookkeeping services, after discussion with the members of the other two EMR boards, it was agreed that a service agreement of this nature would be entered into with Albert Rondeau who agreed to provide these services on behalf of all three EMR boards. This service arrangement will continue in FY 2014-2015 until such time as the staff of the EMR boards has been hired and are in a position to assume these responsibilities.

At the joint meeting of the EMR boards that was held on February 18-19, 2014 in Chisasibi the issue of the auditors to be appointed for the boards for FY 2013-2014 was also discussed. Bids were reviewed that had been received from two firms that were interested in undertaking the statutory audit engagement. After consideration of the bids, BDO Canada was selected by the respective board members to be the auditors for each of the three EMR boards given that BDO Canada was also the auditors for the Cree

Nation of Chisasibi, which would result in cost savings. A letter of engagement for the purchase of these services from BDO Canada was signed by each of the EMR boards and returned to BDO Canada. BDO Canada agreed to work with the EMR Interim Secretariat, the Cree Nation Government and the First Nations Bank of Canada in Chisasibi to get the information that they required for the preparation of the Financial Statements for each of the EMR boards for FY 2013-2014.

EMR ACTIVITIES OF THE CREE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

The EMRLCA specifies, under section 12.6, that funding shall be provided by the EMRWB to the Cree Trappers Association (CTA) and the five Local CTAs adjacent to the EMR in order for them to carry out the powers and functions as set out in Chapter 12 with respect to Wildlife management and harvesting practices in the EMR. This funding is provided by the EMRWB to the CTA for the EMR activities of both the CTA and the five LCTAs. The LCTAs therefore do not have a direct reporting or financial relationship with the EMRWB but with the CTA.

During FY 2013-2014 the CTA began working actively on implementing the EMR responsibilities of the CTA and LCTAs as specified under Chapter 12 of the EMRLCA. In particular, progress has been made in relation to the following areas of operational activity:

- The CTA has reviewed how the EMR positions that they would be responsible for (1 position at the CTA and five positions in the LCTAs), and the related functions to be performed by the EMR officers, would fit into the broader organizational structure of the CTA/LCTAs and to their division of responsibilities and reporting relationships;
- The CTA has reviewed the salary ranges and related benefits associated with these positions to ensure that they are comparable with those received by CTA staff while still remaining within the funding levels provided under the *EMRLCA Implementation Plan*;
- The CTA prepared job postings for the six positions in the format used by the CTA for this purpose and ensured that the postings reflected the division of

responsibilities that was desired as well as the functions that were assigned under the EMRLCA;

- The CTA undertook recruiting activities for all six positions and actively involved local bodies (band and harvester organizations) in the search for appropriate candidates for the LCTA positions;
- The CTA interviewed candidates for the position of Wildlife Liaison Officer within the CTA office in Eastmain and worked closely with the local bodies to finalize the selection of candidates at the LCTA level;
- The CTA selected a preferred applicant for the Wildlife Liaison Officer position within the CTA office in Eastmain and made a job offer to the selected candidate. Similar progress was made in relation to two of the Local EMR Officer positions. The three selected candidates were scheduled to assume their responsibilities early in April 2014 and therefore salary and benefits were not paid in relation to these positions during FY 2013-2014. It is anticipated that the three remaining Local EMR Officer positions will be filled in FY 2014-2015;
- The CTA discussed the implications for the CTA and the five LCTAs adjacent to the EMR, as a result of the coming into effect of the EMRLCA, at the CTA Annual General Assembly. As operational funds were not available at that point, this was just a general discussion and not an extra day of the AGM as is proposed to be undertaken in the future. Therefore no funding was provided in FY 2013-2014 for this activity, although this item was discussed at the AGM;
- The CTA board members have been briefed at each board meeting this year on the progress that is being made in terms of the CTA assuming its responsibilities under Chapter 12 of the EMRLCA and, in particular, on all job postings prior to their release to the public so that the board members would be able to respond knowledgeably about this when the positions were posted;
- The CTA has set up a separate set of accounts, within their broader accounting activities, to keep track of all revenues and expenditures associated with the EMR activities that are being assumed by the CTA. In this context it should be remembered that the CTA also provides accounting services to the LCTAs so the same capacity is now available for the LCTAs activities related to their EMR

- responsibilities. This will allow for the efficient generation of Financial Statements for the EMR activities by the regular CTA auditors. It will also ensure that there is no cross-subsidization between CTA activities in such areas as the Local Fur Officers and the Local EMR Officers, etc.;
- The CTA has set up offices in the CTA office in Eastmain for the Wildlife Liaison Officer and the Local EMR Officer. The CTA has also reviewed the available options in each of the other four LCTAs in preparation for the hiring of the Local EMR Officers. The CTA facilities were rented as of the start of January 2014 to ensure that they were available when staff was hired and so that the furnishing of the offices could be done by the people responsible for this activity at the CTA. The offices are available now with at least basic furniture; and,
 - The CTA has undertaken purchasing activities related to the computers, electronic equipment, office supplies and other office furnishings that will be required for the office in the CTA and in the five LCTAs adjacent to the EMR. The CTA has specific purchasing procedures that are followed in making these purchases (RFPs and three bids for example) to ensure the cost-effective use of these financial resources.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM AND OPEN FILE SYSTEM

The functions of the EMRWB necessitate the purchase and installation of a professional Geographical Information System (GIS) capacity. This subject was discussed jointly by the members of the EMRWB, EMRPC and EMIRB and it was agreed that a series of base maps of the Eeyou Marine Region would need to be purchased and installed in the joint EMR head office. However, as arrangements for the leasing of office space for the EMR head office had not been finalized in FY 2013-2014, the members of the EMR boards decided that they would not continue their discussions concerning the purchase of GIS equipment or data sets until such time as the location of the EMR head office had been confirmed and the Regional Planner had been hired so that she could participate in purchasing and installing the required GIS capacity.

As well, under the provisions of subsection 13.3.3 of the EMRLCA the board is required to “establish and maintain an open file system for all raw and interpreted Wildlife data and information regardless of its source”. In order to fulfill this requirement of the

Agreement, the board will have to review anticipated data access needs by various parties; prepare standards for digital data management; recommend a cataloguing approach (software etc.); prepare a logical plan for information storage and retrieval; and purchase the required computer and mapping hardware to meet these needs. It is not anticipated that the open filing system can be developed in one fiscal year but that work will begin on this project in FY 2014-2015.

WILDLIFE RESEARCH

As specified under subsection 13.3.1 of the EMRLCA, the EMRWB is responsible for undertaking a number of Wildlife research functions as follows:

- a) identify research requirements and deficiencies pertinent to Wildlife management and the rational utilization of Wildlife resources, and promote and encourage on an ongoing basis, research aimed at meeting requirements and overcoming deficiencies;
- b) identify relevant Persons to undertake Wildlife research;
- c) review research proposals and applications and, where appropriate, recommend on the acceptance or rejection of such proposals to the appropriate Government agency;
- d) collect, classify, and disseminate Wildlife statistics and information and maintain a data base adequate for such purposes; and
- e) carry out all other research functions consistent with its responsibilities.

Once the professional staff of the EMRWB has been hired, it is anticipated that the staff and members of the EMRWB will jointly begin the process of identifying the research requirements and deficiencies pertinent to Wildlife management and the rational utilization of Wildlife resources in the EMR and the identification of relevant persons to undertake the Wildlife research that is required. However, as a preliminary effort in this regard, and as will be further discussed below, a Symposium on Science and Traditional Environmental Knowledge in James Bay and Hudson Bay was proposed by members of the EMRWB to be held in Montreal in March 2014. The objective of the symposium was to provide a platform where a comprehensive overview of the results of scientific research and traditional environmental knowledge might be presented and discussed with the aim of defining a program of research for the area. In particular, Session 7 of the symposium was focused on “New Research Opportunities in the EMR”.

In addition, subsection 13.3.2 of the EMRLCA specifies that Canada shall provide the EMRWB with \$5 million to assist the board in carrying out its Wildlife research functions pursuant to subsection 13.3.1. These funds are currently being held in trust by the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and will be transferred to the EMRWB at an appropriate point in time, after request by the EMRWB, in order to establish a Wildlife Research Fund for undertaking this type of research in future years.

The members of the EMRWB discussed this issue and established a sub-committee (Aurélie Bourbeau-Lemieux, Jules Dufour and Claude Saint-Charles) to develop the strategic orientation, including the investment and use, of the Wildlife Research Fund. The \$5 million that is being held in trust by the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee was not transferred to the EMRWB during the 2013-2014 fiscal year. However, the Financial Statements of the EMRWB as of March 31, 2014 show an account receivable from the Cree Nation Government of \$5,132,876 (i.e., the \$5 million plus interest).

WEB SITE AND DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

At the joint meeting of the three EMR boards that was held on June 27-28, 2013 in Ottawa the members of the three Eeyou Marine Region institutions of public government invited three business entities, two of which had considerable experience in the development of web sites and document management systems in the Nunavik, Nunavut and Eeyou Istchee regions to submit proposals related to the design and development of state-of-the-art websites for the EMR organizations. The proposals received from these three business entities included a summary of the work to be undertaken, a description of the structure of the information to be stored, design specifications and the estimated costs related to this work.

In these presentations it was noted that sharing the underlying database and document management system amongst the three EMR organizations could potentially result in significant cost savings and the utilization of better technology. It was anticipated that the members of the EMR boards would decide in FY 2013-2014 which firm would be mandated to undertake this work and that the members of these bodies would continue to be involved with the development and refinement of their respective web sites and the underlying document management system that would be shared between the three

boards with appropriate access privileges by the public (through the web sites) and by the members of the three separate EMR organizations.

However, as the staff for the three EMR boards had not been hired as quickly as earlier envisaged, it was jointly agreed by the EMR board members that Chantal Tetreault would be mandated to create a temporary website for the three EMR boards using “eeyoumarineregion.ca” as a common entry point. Chantal Tetreault then contracted with the firm Zerosum to create the agreed temporary website so that the general public would have access to basic information about the EMR boards. The resulting joint EMR web site includes basic information about the boards and commission along with a picture gallery, maps, links and other pertinent information. The cost of this site was well below what was earmarked in the respective EMR board budgets as it did not include a Document Management System, a project registry for the EMRIRB, interactive mapping as required for the three EMR boards, biographies, etc. The temporary EMR web site can be reached at: <http://www.eeyoumarineregion.ca/>.

As the costs of preparing the temporary EMR board web site were paid for by the EMR Interim Secretariat, there were no expenses that were directly incurred by the EMR boards in FY 2013-2014 in relation to their respective web sites or with regard to developing a Document Management System. It is envisaged that further work on the respective EMR board web sites will be required in FY 2014-2015 and that the necessary equipment and programming for the Document Management System will be jointly purchased some time during FY 2014-2015. As a result, the funding for this web design and computer programming work and for purchasing the necessary computer equipment will need to be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

RELATIONSHIP WITH ADJACENT INSTITUTIONS

Under the provisions of subsection 13.2.1 of the EMRLCA, one of the aspects of the mandate of the EMRWB is “cooperating with other Wildlife management institutions which deal with species that are Harvested in the EMR and migrate outside the EMR” (paragraph h). In furtherance of these obligations, it was anticipated that in FY 2013-2014 various types of on-going consultations would continue between the EMRWB, the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board both with regard to the development of the EMRWB’s operational policies and procedures as well as with respect to the review of specific research proposals that

might involve the Eeyou and Nunavik marine regions and/or the Nunavut Settlement Area in terms of proposals for or decisions taken with regard to undertaking Wildlife research studies or activities that would be of interest to adjacent jurisdictions and also to consider coordinating such research activities to the extent possible. Without the professional staff being in place, the relationships with other Wildlife management institutions were only pursued in a preliminary manner. However, the Symposium on Science and Traditional Environmental Knowledge in James Bay and Hudson Bay that was held in Montreal in March 2014 provided an opportunity for the members of the EMRWB to meet some contacts in this regard and to exchange viewpoints.

As well, in addition to anticipating these general consultations of an on-going nature, it was recognized by the members of the EMR boards that section 28.8 of NILCA and also sub-section 30.6 b) of the EMRLCA reciprocally specify that the bodies created pursuant to their wildlife, land use planning, and Wildlife management regimes “shall sit together when making decisions or recommendations concerning the Joint Zone and render the same recommendations or decisions concerning the Joint Zone” once both sets of management regimes have been established. Joint sessions between the EMR and NMR boards were not necessary in FY 2013-2014 but discussion papers were prepared on the relationship between the mandates of the EMRIRB and EMRPC and on the interface between the EMR boards and the institutions of public government created under the JBNQA and the NILCA land claims settlement agreements. Further work on defining the relationship between the various institutions of public government created under the EMR, NILCA and Nunavut land claims agreements will continue in FY 2014-2015.

SYMPOSIUM ON SCIENCE AND TRADITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE IN JAMES BAY AND HUDSON BAY

At the joint meeting of the EMRWB, EMRPC and EMRIRB that was held in Ottawa on June 27-28, 2013 a presentation was given to the members by Jules Dufour and Claude St-Charles proposing terms of reference for a Symposium on Science and Traditional Environmental Knowledge in James Bay and Hudson Bay, which was envisaged as being held in Montreal in March 2014. The objective of the symposium was agreed as being to provide a platform where a comprehensive overview of the results of scientific research and traditional environmental knowledge might be presented and discussed in a friendly environment with the aim of defining a program of research for the area.

The members of the EMR boards jointly agreed to participate in such a symposium and to collectively work on further developing the program for the symposium and on issues related to the funding and logistics for the event. It was also agreed that the costs of the event would be included in one way and another within the budgets being prepared by the EMR institutions of public government for FY 2013-2014.

The *2014 Symposium on Science and Traditional Knowledge in the Eeyou Marine Region* was subsequently held from March 25 to 27th at the Le Centre Sheraton in Montreal. The Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB), the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and ArcticNet played key roles in organizing the symposium, which was designed to present an overview of traditional and scientific knowledge on the marine and coastal ecosystems of James Bay and eastern Hudson Bay. In addition, a second objective was to identify fields of research that could be developed to fill the gaps in understanding of the marine and coastal environment needed to ensure the sustainable development and use of resources. The members of the EMRWB participated fully in the Symposium and, by way of a payment to the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee, the EMRWB effectively paid for a portion of the costs of the Symposium.

The organizers of the Symposium set out three basic questions for consideration by participants:

- What elements of the marine environment dynamics and resources should be the subject of a research program over the next five years?
- What means should be implemented to achieve this program?
- Which organizations and partners should be invited to participate in this program?

The Symposium gathered an impressive group of participants representing the range of expertise required for a comprehensive discussion. This included Cree and Inuit active in research and wildlife management, academic and government scientists, policy specialists, members of the EMR land use planning, impact review and wildlife boards, and representatives from partner Aboriginal organizations.

The Symposium was organized around a set of sessions dealing with specific themes:

- Session 1: Welcome and Objectives
- Session 2: People, History and Traditional Knowledge
- Session 3: Development and Cooperation in the EMR
- Session 4: Climate, Ice and Oceanography

- Session 5: The Marine Ecosystem
- Session 6: Habitat and Wildlife
- Session 7: New Research Opportunities in the EMR
- Panel Discussion

The Symposium's final report and presentations are available on the internet at:
<http://www.arcticnetmeetings.ca/EMRS2014/pages/documents.php>

MEDIA KITS AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

It was anticipated that during FY 2013-2014 the EMRWB would begin the process of developing a communications strategy for informing the general public and the Cree communities adjacent to the Eeyou Marine Region about the existence of the EMRWB and its mandate related to Wildlife management and harvesting practices in the EMR.

In this regard, in coordination with the contest to develop the EMRWB logo, it was expected that a mission statement and a series of press and media kits would be developed along with other promotional materials that could be handed out to participants at community meetings, public hearings under section 14.6 of EMRLCA, etc.

Although some preliminary work on developing this material was undertaken, the members of the EMRWB decided that further efforts in this regard would be deferred until the location of the EMR head office had been confirmed and the professional staff had been hired so that they could participate in developing this material. In the meantime, information about the EMR boards has been made available to the general public through the "eeyoumarineregion.ca" temporary website that has been created for the three EMR boards.

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