



**OBVT**  
Organisme  
de bassin versant  
du Témiscamingue

## Report

### ***Consultative Committee Meeting Lake Kipawa Concerted Management Plan***

Monday, July 22, and Tuesday, September 17, 2013 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Kipawa community hall

#### 1. Purpose of meeting

The purpose of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Consultative Committee was to determine a vocation and the objectives for Lake Kipawa.

#### 2. Attendance

<b>Users Consultative Committee</b>					
<b>Groups</b>	<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Present – July 22, 2013</b>	<b>Absent - July 22, 2013</b>	<b>Present – September 17, 2013</b>	<b>Absent - September 17, 2013</b>
<b>Municipalities</b>					
Témiscaming	Philippe Barette	X		X	
Kipawa	Norman Young	X		X	
Laniel	Yvon Gagnon	X			X
Béarn	Luc Lalonde		X		X
<b>Environmental and community sector</b>					
Environmental organisation	APART: Johanne Descoteaux	X		X	
Lake association	Henri Laforest	X		X	
Users association	Daniel Goulet		X	X	
Hunters, anglers	Gino Lafrenière	X		X	
Citizens	André Lapierre, Claude Bérubé, Clyde & Thomas Mongrain, Karen Kowalchuk & Stephen Kilburn		Clyde Mongrain absent		Claude Bérubé absent
<b>Economic sector</b>					
Outfitters (economic & tourism sector)	Yves Bouthillette	X		X	
Tourism	Dany Gareau		X	X	
Industrial sector	Claude Brisson (Matamec)	X		X	

Groups	Representatives	Present – July 22, 2013	Absent - July 22, 2013	Present – September 17, 2013	Absent - September 17, 2013
Témis-accord Chamber of Commerce	Robin Larochelle		X	X	
First Nations					
Eagle Village			X		X
Wolf Lake			X		X

[Attendance list of Consultative Committee meeting, Lake Kipawa Management Plan. July 22 and September 17, 2013.](#)

Resource persons were also present to listen to the discussions and answer specific questions:

- ❖ Ministry of Natural Resources:
  - Alain Fort, biologist, Expertise Branch, Energy-Wildlife-Forests-Mines-Territory
  - Jean-Pierre Hamel, biologist, Expertise Branch, Energy-Wildlife-Forests-Mines-Territory (July 22 only)
  - Pascal Martel, responsible for land planning and management at the regional level
  - Claude Massé, head of Management Unit, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ville-Marie.
- ❖ MRC de Témiscamingue :
  - Daniel Dufault, coordinator, land management and regional development (July 22 only)
  - Tomy Boucher, Assistant Director General (September 17 only).

Workshops of July 22 were facilitated by:

- Julie Boisvert, Organisme de bassin versant du Témiscamingue
- Mélissa Valiquette, Organisme de bassin versant du Témiscamingue
- Ambroise Lycke, Organisme de bassin versant du Témiscamingue
- Jean-François Turcotte, Regional Board of Elected Officials of Abitibi-Témiscamingue (CRÉAT)

### 3. Reminder on the process and important points to know about the project

A brief reminder was given to all participants at each meeting.

The Project Plan, which is public and available on the internet, presents the whole process ([http://obvt.ca/fichiers/Plan\\_de\\_projet\\_lac-Kipawa\\_0.pdf](http://obvt.ca/fichiers/Plan_de_projet_lac-Kipawa_0.pdf)); modifications were made to the timeframe and can also be viewed at: <http://www.obvt.ca/activites/concertation>.

In a nutshell, the project was initiated by the MRC de Témiscamingue who mandated the OBVT to write the Plan and organise the consultative process.

The Steering Committee is present mainly for administrative purposes, to ensure that the project will be successfully completed and well organised, the budgets respected and the objectives achieved. The Committee has a coordinating role. The members meet before each

crucial phase to determine the best way to complete it: for example, the public consultation meeting, the drafting of documents, etc.

A Consultative Committee was created to ensure a close follow-up of the project and work on the content of the Concerted Management Plan. The Consultative Committee's role is not only to validate documents or comments, it is truly useful to review and make additions to the different documents. It has no decision-making power.

A reminder was given on the moratorium: it concretely translated into interim measures to freeze the outfitting establishments' accommodation capacity and then to prevent the development of cottages on public land.

The Lake Kipawa Concerted Management Plan is the preferred means to assess whether the moratorium should be lifted or not, but if the situation shows that this is not advisable, it might be maintained.

The Concerted Management Plan also allows preparing a status report on the lake and defining common objectives to adequately manage Lake Kipawa as a whole.

The participants emphasised that measures are required as soon as possible.

The Committee was informed that First Nations were also met, that the documents are sent to them as they become available and that they committed to produce a summary to be integrated into the Concerted Management Plan.

#### **4. Review of the requests by certain actors regarding representation on the Consultative Committee**

At the beginning of the process, outfitters, as important actors around Lake Kipawa, had asked to be represented by more than one person on the Consultative Committee. They were answered that the Committee ideally had to be balanced, representative of all sectors and have a moderate number of members. It was therefore advisable to have one representative and one substitute per group, which was accepted by all the stakeholders. Group members who did not participate in the Committee's process were invited to submit their views through their group's representative or to contact Thibaut Petry.

The tourism sector made the same request and the answer was the same. However, with the agreement of the Committee members, it was decided that people involved in this sector (Simon Laquerre, Dany Gareau and Ghyslaine Dessureault) would consult each other to select the best and most available person to represent them. Yves Bouthillette mentioned that Ghyslaine Dessureault could be in the best position to represent this sector on the Committee because of her extended knowledge in different areas.

The Conseil régional de l'environnement de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue (CREAT) wished to mandate a representative during the process. Since the environmental sector is already represented by

the APART organisation, the two groups discussed the matter and agreed on one representative (Johanne Descoteaux, APART).

## **5. Update on the 1st progress report**

The first progress report containing the territory profile, issues and concerns was validated by the reviewers and translated in English. It is now available at the following address: <http://www.obvt.ca/activites/concertation>.

## **6. Discussion on Lake Kipawa's vocation**

Based on a conclusion arrived at after a number of meetings, a draft vocation was suggested to the group for discussion. Certain adjustments were made and the Consultative Committee unanimously agreed on the following final wording for Lake Kipawa's vocation:

*Lake Kipawa is a body of water with exceptional characteristics that should be preserved. No development on the Lake should affect the integrity, quality and long term preservation of this body of water. Actions should be put forward to adequately know and manage present and future problems.*

This wording allows highlighting three major points:

- ❖ Lake Kipawa is a jewel of nature
- ❖ It must be preserved
- ❖ A number of problems need to be resolved

The group agreed with this vocation that will be, from now on, the general goal and common message to define appropriate objectives and actions.

## **7. Theme-based workshops to determine the objectives to be achieved regarding Lake Kipawa**

At the first Committee meeting on the objectives, workshops were held to allow all representatives to express their views and discuss.

In order to cover all the issues and concerns that were raised since the beginning of the process, 4 main themes had been prepared:

- Permanent and seasonal residency
- Fishing and fish populations
- Pleasure boating and use of lake
- Commercial and industrial activities

Small groups went from one workshop to the next for 20-25 minute periods per theme. To start each round, the theme was presented in the form of major points (that were related to issues and concerns), by a facilitator who had to stay neutral (Julie Boisvert, Mélissa Valiquette and Ambroise Lycke, all three from OBVT and Jean-François Turcotte from CRÉAT). Resource persons from MRN and MRC de Témiscamingue went from table to table to answer specific questions.

Following the presentation of the theme, the Consultative Committee members debated on the objectives to be developed to respond to all the points. Preference was given to seeking consensus-based objectives (unanimously agreed), although not mandatory. When certain objectives were not agreed upon by all, they were recorded as such. Each Committee member was therefore asked to state his opinion on the four themes.

## **8. Plenary session on concerted objectives**

During the plenary session, it appeared that there were too many objectives to be reviewed in the evening of July 22<sup>nd</sup> because additional time had been spent on workshops. The participants unanimously agreed that the objectives would be compiled by the project manager and sent to the Consultative Committee for review before the next meeting (the objectives' wording can be modified, but not the spirit and intent that was discussed in small groups).

The final validation was done at the third Committee meeting (September 17, 2013). See *Appendix 1: Lake Kipawa Concerted Management Objectives*. At the September 17 meeting, a point of information was shared by Claude Massé to inform the Committee members on the type of requests received by MRN and the need to respond to these contingencies in the course of the development of the Lake Kipawa Concerted Management Plan. Moreover, it appears relevant to use the SMART approach to determine the objectives; these should ideally be **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable/Acceptable, **R**ealistic and **T**ime bound. Furthermore, these objectives and related actions must allow MRN to know what position to adopt when receiving special requests such as the construction of a marina in Laniel for example. The scenario of low-impact commercial resorts would also allow giving consideration to the economic and social benefits of structuring projects.

Claude Massé also said that MRN could not operationalise the objective of *prohibiting new activities (commercial and industrial) within the 300-metre strip*. The Table de gestion intégrée des ressources et du territoire – Integrated land and resource management committee (TGIRT) has already discussed certain modalities that will be applied by MRN in forest operations planning.

## **9. Varia**

At the first meeting (July 22<sup>nd</sup>), Alain Fort, biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources, asked questions on drawdown tests to be carried out in fall 2013: the Centre d'expertise hydrique du Québec (water expertise centre) is prepared to make a test that consists in reducing the fall water level by 40 cm (which corresponds to a low hydraulicity level). Anyhow, MRN wants to make sure that this measure is known and accepted by all. Someone asked what would be the best way to reach the people concerned: press release, mail, posting in municipalities, OBVT website, information posted in entry points (on road side). The participants' suggestions will be welcome; they can contact Alain Fort at MRN.

Finally, the second meeting was an opportunity to report on the Ministry's communication process: outfitters were informed by regular mail, mayors of concerned municipalities by email, posters on docks in Laniel and Kipawa, media publications and radio interviews allowed publicising the measure. It is apparently well perceived by riparian owners. Normal water level is expected to return in mid-October.

## **10. Meeting Evaluation**

At the end of the two meetings, participants said they were satisfied with the conduct of both meetings, the general project organisation and communication with the Committee. It was suggested for the next meeting to amalgamate the redundant objectives that apply to several themes so as to alleviate the text.