



Mistik Advisory Group October 31st, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location: Grace United Church, Meadow Lake, SK

Meeting Facilitators: Brenda Nightingale, Niska Hodgson

Meeting Attendees:

The following parties were represented at the meeting:

Beauval Co-management:	Nick Daigneault
Cold Lake First Nations:	Fran Desjardin
Divide Forest Advisory Council Corp.	Larry Anderson, Alden Halseth
Ducks Unlimited	Mark Kornder
Flying Dust First Nation:	Roderick Bear, Kole Norman, Tara Dull
Île-à-la Crosse/Sakitawak IPCA:	Peter Durocher, Bill Graham
Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp:	Christine Overvelde, Lorne Neale
Meadow Lake Area Residents/Interested Parties:	Bob Wilson
Ministry of Environment (Meadow Lake):	Gerry Kuzyk
Ministry of Environment (Prince Albert):	Nadine Penney, Kassidy McIntyre
Mistik Board of Directors:	Brenda Nightingale
Mistik Management:	Niska Hodgson, Robert Follett, Kevin Gillis, April Lesko, Cheyenne Carey, Coleton Ethier, Clifford McLauchlan, Roger Bonneau, Stormy Kytwayhat
Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency	Chris Wilson
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation	Kevin Guttormson
Village of Goodsoil	Don Eckel, Ken Huber
Zone 8 Trappers	Leonard Greenhough

Note that Mistik maintains records of all parties who were invited to the meeting.

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by Brenda Nightengale.

An opening statement was offered by Fran Desjardin from Cold Lake First Nations. Brenda Nightingale offered a land acknowledgement and an overview of Mistik's expectations for respectful interactions during the meeting, as well as safety and housekeeping items.

A revision to the agenda was made. The agenda was adopted (moved by Bob Wilson, seconded by Kevin Guttormson, carried).

Mistik's 2022/23 Operating Year Annual Report – Niska Hodgson

An overview presentation was given on the indicators Mistik uses to measure how well they are doing as well as areas to improve on for 2022/23. Note that final annual reports can be found on Mistik's website at www.Mistik.ca.

Question: Where are the nurseries located where you grow seedlings?

Response: Big River, Prince Albert, and Bonnyville. We like to deal as locally as possible.

Question: How long do you wait until you check on the trees? We have a program in the community. They may be interested in surveys in the forest and regrowth.

Response: We wait until year five. The trees must meet minimum provincial standards for minimum height and density. In some cases, we check on blocks before that timeframe. An example is the Helene Fire south of Meadow Lake. We did additional planting in this area following the fire.

Question: Climate change indicator - how is growth being affected?

Response: The survey results will show any potential impacts. So far, we aren't seeing anything significant but we are keeping an eye on this, especially during very dry years following planting.

Comment: re. Caribou – they are on the east side. They're moving around the landscape. We are aware of where they are located. The community wants to ensure that caribou will be present into the future for our grandchildren. We have knowledge of three specific herds in the Île-à-la-Croix area and we've seen caribou in places where they must have been seen before.

Operations & Current Affairs – Robert Follett

An overview of current operations and mills was given.

Pulp and sawlog markets are down and there are cost pressures on Mistik but no impact to operations. We have a focus on capacity building. Examples are the purchase of P&E Logging by Buffalo River Dene Nation and the addition of a log truck to Mistik's fleet by a community member, purchase of a processor by a Meadow Lake community member, and a \$400,000 investment in a truck driver training program for on the job training. If the PAG members know anyone who may be interested in log hauling please contact Mistik.

Equipment simulators were jointly purchased by the forest industry and SK government. It has been used at career fairs and training. We are available to bring the simulator to school events as well.

We are hoping to hire local summer students to pair up with our forestry students next summer. Please let Mistik know if anyone in your communities may be interested in this opportunity.

Question: The funding you mention, is it available for truck driver training for Saskatchewan residents only?

Response: Training is for all and could possibly include non-Saskatchewan people. We will look into this.

Comment: Thank you Mistik for the seedlings you provided this spring. Could we do it again? We really appreciate Mistik doing that for us.

Response: Yes, we can do it again next spring.

Question: Can you come to speak to our students? We had thirty-four graduates this year.

Response: Yes, we would be happy to do that.

Robert gave an overview of the scholarships available. Mistik would like them to go to students in the local area if possible.

Question: Is there interest from the programs in Prince Albert (SaskPoly)?

Response: Yes, this is a go-to place for Mistik for hiring summer students.

Question: What are the fire impacts? How will this affect Mistik response?

Response: 13% of the FMA was lost in the month of May in the 2023 fires. Mistik lost wood products (stockpiles). It had a huge impact financially and to the land base.

Comment: Lots of the east side burnt. This fire should have been shut down more quickly.

Lunch break and group photo

Recognition of Mistik public advisory group 20 year anniversary – Niska Hodgson & Nadine Penney

Niska and Nadine gave an overview of the importance of the PAG and how much Mistik appreciates the efforts by the group over the years. Gifts were given to PAG members.

Certification Update - Kevin Gillis

Kevin gave an overview of the CSA certification standard changing to PEFC. He also did an overview of Mistik audits and chain of custody.

Question: Do you still scarify?

Response: Only a bit with the anchor chains (no barrels), and only in the jack pine stands.

Question: What do you do about invasive species?

Response: We do training for staff and contractors so we can identify things during our operations. We also don't use any sprays which helps protect habitats.

Question: What do you do about wolverine and bison?

Response: Wolverine has a similar habitat to Fisher which is one of our indicator species. In the 1960s there were some Bison brought from the PA National Park and released near Cummings Lake. The federal government was supposed to do a population study, but they never finished it. A few bison got away from the Waterhen herd as well. The three distinct herds are McCusker, Primrose and Salt/Hay Creek.

Question: Do you still have FSC certification?

Response: Yes, we do.

Item needing attention

Mistik needs a new public advisory group representative on the Mistik planning team as the current representative, Tony Leeson, will be stepping down. Planning team meetings are about once a year right now, but will be monthly during the development of the next 20-year forest management plan. We would like to identify 1-2 representatives to attend these meetings as well as an alternate. Interested individuals can identify themselves to Niska during the break.

Ducks Unlimited Projects with Mistik - Mark Kornder

Mark gave an overview of Ducks Unlimited boreal program for ducks Unlimited as well as the projects they have worked on with Mistik.

Question: Is there a decrease in the amount of wetland?

Response: agricultural influence and in Alberta the oil and gas industry has impacted refuge for waterfowl.

Question: has there been much change in the Cumberland Delta area?

Response: There are changes that have resulted from hydro-electric projects. There are forty-five structures in place to help mitigate these changes. Projects to update and improve the structures will cost around \$25 million.

Question: What sampling do you do to determine impacts from the use of fertilizer, etc.? We are concerned about consumption and if it is used, it is safe?

Response: We need to collect more data. There hasn't been much data collected that would measure the influence but we have a research branch that would look at that.

The group voted on who the representative will be for the Mistik planning team based on interest. The primary planning team members will be Rodrick Bear and Kole Norman from Flying Dust First Nation. The alternate will be Bob Wilson from Meadow Lake.

Closing remarks were given.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00.



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