MEETING NOTES

**Topic:** Community-Driven Research and Monitoring Working Group

**Date/Time:** 1:30-3:00 pm ET, Monday, April 29, 2024

**Location:** Zoom Video Conference Call

**Chairs:** Maude Durand, Oceans North

**Attendees:** Dante Torio - CERRI

Joel Heath - Executive Director, Arctic Eider Society

Lynda Orman - Polar Knowledge

Molly Morse - Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

Martin Tremblay - Network Manager, ArcticNet

Tanya Iljas - Mushkegowuk Council

Barb Duffin - Mushkegowuk Council

Serena Panaktalok - Hudson Bay Consortium Secretariat

Jackie Kidd - Hudson Bay Consortium Secretariat

Chantal Tetrault - Cree Nation Government

**Notes on Agenda Items:**

**1) Welcome and introductions to new members**

* Molly Morse - program lead for Nunavik, CIRNAC
  + Funding program, waiting the reports to come in
  + Just went through a call for proposal, and getting those set-up
* Joel Heath - Qikiqtait: Baseline research, oceanographic and sea ice work, resource inventory work
  + Community-driven Research Network (fall or coming winter) with Sanikiluaq, Kuujjuarapik, Inukjuak, Chisasibi, Umiujaq
* Martin Tremblay, ArcticNet
  + Potential opportunities to be discussed a little later in the call
* Danta Torio, CERRI - busy with reports, new funding and preparing for fieldwork
  + Goose break currently, and have a project to sample waterfowl
* Linda Orman, Polar Knowledge - working on a number of grant applications, evaluation and getting the funding out, were at Kuujjuarapik Research meeting, Northern Contaminants Research in Ottawa; Inuvialuit region Climate Change (Gwitchin)
* Tanya Iljas, Mushkegowuk - NMCA around Western James and Hudson Bay, PFP Mushkegowuk and Fort Severn homelands, Climate Adaptation funding out currently (Barb heading it)

**2) Secretariat Operations and 2024 Roundtable Updates**

* The Roundtable Report has been completed and is online
* Will be circulated via email with the translated summaries
* Has been released through social media
* Formal youth delegation for the first time - cooperation from regions in continuing this and building the number of youth who are supported to participate
* Recommendations for the future of the youth delegation, communications, etc. - we will circulate that
* The Strategic Plan will be out in the next couple of months, awaiting final sign off from the Steering Committee
* Please sign up to our social media platforms:
  + [Twitter (X)](https://twitter.com/hudsonjamesbays?lang=en)
  + [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/hudsonbayconsortium)
  + [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/hudsonbayconsortium)
* Currently looking for additional funding to help support the community members to attend in-person events - ideally multi-year
* Renaming, logo, website - happening over the summer, soft launch in the fall, formal launch at the next Roundtable (TBC: February 2025)

**3) Review (and adoption) of the Terms of Reference**

* Formally adopted as of April 29th, 2024 - anonymous

**4) Updates on and review of priorities, needs and opportunities**

* Mushkegowuk (NRCAN and ECCC): Climate Resilience between Western James and Hudson Bay
  + Mid-June should be up and running
  + Mitigation and adaptation as it pertains to hydrology
  + Monitor the the changes
  + Indigenous knowledge and western scientists together - marine areas, early indicators, monitoring and research that needs to happen and how
  + Attawapiskat over to Hudson Bay (flying drones) to look at climate change 0 erosion, loss of biodiversity areas
  + Creating a network of communities in Lower Hudson Bay and James Bay
  + 2026 - Next Summit - would like to present our findings here: see if anyone around the table (like-minded ideas) is this something you can use for your communities, networking the region together (create some kind of a working group through HBC potentially)
  + Bringing SIKU to the communities to be woven in as well to the projects’ knowledge
  + Project for the next three years
* Joel
  + Mapping out bathymetry, drone mapping (maybe add tiles to the SIKU map)
  + Any communities doing bathymetry mapping, can help contribute to protected areas and fisheries (can get this information into the hands of the App users right away)
* Martin
  + ArcticNet got its renewal for the next 5 years, working to prepare a call for proposals
  + Stay tuned and more details will come during the summer/early fall
  + North by North program and Academic program
  + Organizing the Arctic Change conference (December) in Ottawa (international) - call for session is still open, submit a proposal (any questions reach out to Martin)
* Dante
  + CERRI - 3 projects going on for this year
  + 1. Contaminants project (extension) - knowing the contaminants in traditional food (First Nations Contaminant Program); 2 more years worth of funding
  + Fish and waterfowl testing for mercury
  + 2. Biodiversity of Intertidal areas
  + 3. Finalizing protected area with Inuit overlap area
  + Starting a greenhouse in Chisasibi: planting different species of vegetables, salads, useful crops
  + Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) project for the youth - basic communication skills, physics and math, later chemistry and biology - currently 11 out-of-school youth participating in the program (finishing by the end of July)
  + Funding from the University of Quebec: Test the quality of spring water in the community (project requested by elders)
* Linda - Anguviak research meeting in Kuujjuarapik with RNUK and Chairs/Vice-Chairs in Nunavik and twenty researchers from universities across Southern Canada
  + DFO, CWS, PK all participated in the meeting
  + Discussion around beluga was contentious; working towards co-management
  + PK has funded RNUK for the past 3 years for beluga DNA and Indigenous knowledge work on beluga in East Hudson Bay
  + Mikeala Neelin will be producing a report out the of workshop
  + Projects were proposed by government departments and agencies, and academics
* Chantal - CNG signed an MOU in 2019 to conduct a feasibility study (Parks Canada to do)
  + Next step to create NMCA’s
  + About to start second tour (first one done in February)
  + Management and governance, not just protections - communities taking over these responsibilities
  + Power to communities to steward, monitor, and manage these areas
  + A participatory component - what does an NMCA mean to you? (economics, protections, management, governance, etc)
  + Each person visualizing how an NMCA would help them personally and as part of the broader community
  + Signing ceremony in August in Wemindji
  + Ensure the flow of protection between terrestrial to marine, Government of Quebec needs to be involved
  + Coastlines weren’t show in previous agreements like NILCA, finding a way to illustrate the coastlines in feasibility studies
  + Zones: Eeyou Marine Region Board, Cree, Joint (50/50 with Makivvik), Inuit
  + Want to ensure there is true Cree participation in creating an NMCA - in terms of negotiation, youth involvement, protections
* Molly - Nunavik, First Nations and Hudson Bay Area - nearly full for funding allotment
  + But can help connect the dots within government departments that might have funding available
  + Standards Council of Canada: Climate Monitoring with a focus on Indigenous methods and Community Priorities (monitoring physical climate variables)
  + Getting ready to release it - will share the link to the guide as soon as it’s received
  + Makivvik - Nunavik Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

**5) Next Roundtable - Brainstorming**

* Martin - emerging priorities from the community perspectives
* Tanya - knowledge weaving, traditional knowledge in larger biodiversity and monitoring projects - how to hold weight in these biodiversity discussions
  + Data sharing back with communities
  + Research scientists can say where they are going to be and at what time - communities have access to this information
  + Principles for collaboration
  + Challenges with the provincial government (Ontario) - share what has worked and what can work
  + Share struggles, wins, with other communities in research and monitoring projects/activities
  + Standardization of data - in support of Traditional knowledge - names and classifications of species in Cree - better communicate together (academics/governments/Indigenous peoples)
* Chantal
  + Echo Tanya’s points - Traditional knowledge is part of the conversation as scientists, activists, etc. already.
  + Break the stigma that Indigenous data needs to be validated by scientists, usually it’ the other way around (after they have done research in the region for 2 years already)
* Dante
  + Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) - share information with the rest of the marine community you can use OBIS (naming of data, columns, rows, etc.)
  + More information can be found here: <https://manual.obis.org/darwin_core.html#location>
  + Easier for any data to be analyzed when it’s standardized
  + Following more conventional structures - to be developed ourselves and used as a contribution to the international community
  + Bathymetry/hydrography in James Bay and Hudson Bay - Federal government to guide us through a protocol to have a unified approach for bathymetry survey and combine all of our data together for the region (set-up instruments and technical aspects - consistent implementation)
* Linda
  + PK - how we are trying to weave Indigenous Knowledge with western research - two-eyed approach
  + Synthesis reports out of workshops where the Chair of Indigenous knowledge WG would sit in the Academic workshop and vice versa
  + Make space, and relevant ways, to weave together knowledge systems
  + Knowledge products need all knowledge systems