

# **Elk-Kootenai/y Reference**

## **Meeting Summary: Meeting 1 of the Governance Body <sup>1</sup>**

*Meeting Location: Virtual*

*August 20, 2024*

Meeting Attendance: IJC, ʔakisq̓nuk, ʔaq̓am, British Columbia, Canada, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Idaho, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Montana, United States, Yaqaṇ Nuʔkiy, Yaq̓it ʔa-knuq̓i'it

### **1. Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Proposed Agenda**

The Secretariat welcomed everybody to the meeting of the Governance Body and members introduced themselves. Delegation Co-Chair appointments were discussed for the Canada (Canada and British Columbia), Ktunaxa (ʔakisq̓nuk, ʔaq̓am, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Yaqaṇ Nuʔkiy, and Yaq̓it ʔa-knuq̓i'it), and United States (United States, Montana, and Idaho) delegations. The Secretariat highlighted that the goals of the meeting were for Governance Body members to get acquainted, discuss the function of the Governance Body, and plan for the September 11 – 12, 2024 in-person meeting in Bonners Ferry, Idaho on Ktunaxa Nation lands. The August 20, 2024, virtual Governance Body meeting agenda was approved by the Governance Body members present.

### **2. Elk-Kootenai/y Reference Structure**

The Secretariat reviewed the Elk-Kootenai/y Reference, noting the respective role of the Study Board and the Governance Body. Information flows between the two entities and the Secretariat were discussed. The Secretariat then reviewed the role of the IJC as the Secretariat to the Governance Body, noting the responsibilities assigned to the IJC and the 2-year duration of this role.

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<sup>1</sup> The consensus draft of the Terms of Reference for the Kootenai/y Watershed Governance Body dated 24 June 2024 states that: “These Terms of Reference are effective when all Governments are authorized to enter into them. Governments will advise the Secretariat in writing upon receipt of the necessary final approvals. Work may proceed under these Terms of Reference on an interim basis pending those final approvals.” This meeting was on an interim basis as Governments secured these approvals.

### **3. Progress Thus Far Under the Elk-Kootenai/y Reference**

The Secretariat reviewed what actions and activities have taken place so far since the Canadian, U.S. and Ktunaxa Nation governments sent the Reference to the IJC on March 8, 2024, including the IJC's consultations with individual governments, the intergovernmental Working Group's efforts to draft a *Terms of Reference* for the Governance Body, and updates on the status of governments' designation of Governance Body members.

### **4. Governance Body Responsibilities**

The Secretariat led a discussion of the responsibilities of the Governance Body as derived from the March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Elk-Kootenai/y Reference and discussed in the Governance Body Terms of Reference. While reviewing the primary Governance Body responsibilities, it was emphasized working collaboratively, inclusively and with respect for the jurisdiction of each government is paramount. The Secretariat recommended addressing all responsibilities in a coordinated fashion.

Reviewing a timeline of the Governance Body's work and expected accomplishments over the next two years, the Secretariat advocated for a three-phased approach that involves (1) relationship building and information gathering; (2) coming to consensus on a plan to guide the Governance Body's activities; and (3) putting that plan into action.

### **5. Planning for the In-Person Meeting of the Governance Body (September 11 – 12, 2024, In-Person)**

*September 11, 2024*

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) will be hosting an in-person meeting of the Governance Body and will lead a Knowledge Gathering tour on September 11, 2024. An overview of the Knowledge Gathering tour was discussed including a trip to their hatchery to learn about KTOI's fish conservation efforts, which will highlight the importance of understanding the local environmental context. Governance Body members were asked to submit any questions they have in advance of the Knowledge Gathering tour to the Secretariat for sharing with the staff who will lead that tour. Logistics for the in-person meeting were also discussed, including accommodation and transportation arrangements. KTOI will host a dinner on September 11, 2024 and a lunch on September 12, 2024. Governance Body

members were asked to confirm their attendance and note any dietary restrictions to the Secretariat by August 26, 2024.

The benefits of a knowledge gathering tour were discussed and it was suggested that other governments hosting subsequent Governance Body meetings could try to do something similar in their jurisdictions.

*September 12, 2024*

The Secretariat then led a discussion on planning for September 12, 2024, including the Secretariat's proposed agenda for that meeting.

The September 12, 2024 meeting will focus on getting to know one another, developing an understanding of what we know and what we do not know, and help us decide on what to focus on as the Governance Body works to develop lists of operational items that need to be developed/addressed.

Governance Body members expressed the importance of gathering existing information and suggested that on September 12 the group should discuss what information is needed and what is the best approach for gathering that information. The Secretariat suggested that during the September 12 meeting each government explain to the group their interest in being part of the Governance Body and how that fits with the common goal of the group.

The Secretariat will, before the in-person meeting, provide a list of key questions that each Governance Body member should consider in preparation for the meeting.

## **6. Communication Protocols and Subcommittees**

The Governance Body discussed the need for establishing clear communication protocols and a system for designating sub-committees when needed. The group agreed to discuss these topics further during Meeting 2.

## **7. Administrative Processes**

In preparation for the September 12 meeting, Governance Body members were asked to consider administrative aspects of future Governance Body meetings, including posting meeting minutes and deciding on traditional openings for meetings. During the topic of administrative processes, there was discussion

around the appropriate size of future meetings and delegation composition, with a focus on ensuring that the Governance Body remains small enough to function effectively while still accommodating necessary support staff. This item will be further considered on September 12.