



Parks Canada  
Parcs Canada



Access to Information and Privacy Office  
30 Victoria Street, (PC-05-C)  
Gatineau, Quebec  
J8X 0B3

A-2024-00153 / BGD

Your file number: EA2024\_0087584

December 11, 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]:

We have completed processing your request, under the *Access to Information Act*, for:

***"ORIGINAL REQUEST: Provide all briefing documents for "PK2024-00436".***

***CLARIFICATION RECEIVED 08/10: Include draft documents."***

Please note that certain information has been exempted from disclosure pursuant to Section 21 of the *Act*. A copy of this Section of the *Act* is enclosed for your information.

Please note that you are entitled to file a complaint with the Information Commissioner of Canada regarding the processing of your request within sixty days of the receipt of this notice. In the event you decide to avail yourself of this right, your notice of complaint should be addressed to:

Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada  
30 Victoria Street  
Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 1H3

If you have any questions regarding the processing of your request, please do not hesitate to contact Billie Gene Dufresne by email at [billiegene.dufresne@pc.gc.ca](mailto:billiegene.dufresne@pc.gc.ca).

Yours sincerely,

Sahar Soleymani  
Coordinator  
Access to Information and Privacy Office

Enclosure

**Please quote the above noted reference number on all correspondence related to this request.**

Canada

## **21 INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE OPERATIONS OF GOVERNMENT**

*21. (1) The head of a government institution may refuse to disclose any record requested under this Act that contains*

- (a) advice or recommendations developed by or for a government institution or a minister of the Crown,*
- (b) an account of consultations or deliberations involving officers or employees of a government institution, a minister of the Crown or the staff of a minister of the Crown,*
- (c) positions or plans developed for the purpose of negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the Government of Canada and considerations relating thereto, or*
- (d) plans relating to the management of personnel or the administration of a government institution that have not yet been put into operation,*

*if the record came into existence less than twenty years prior to the request. R.S. 1985, c. A-1, s.21.*

## RMNP Stakeholder Engagement on Zebra Mussels in Clear Lake – Synopsis

Sector	Rep/Org	Dates of engagement	Synopsis
Marina Operator	Kelsey Connor	Nov 20 & 24, 2023 Jan 16, 24, 28, 31 Feb 6, 9, 13, 20, 29	Kelsey has been treated as a partner throughout. He receives information and is engaged on a level that is at par with the Coalition of First Nations, the MP, and Municipal leaders, in advance of information flowing to other stakeholders and the public. Has expressed willingness to work with PC on solutions and is currently considering option to operate the Martese for 2024. Main interest is in long-term health of the lake and viability of marina business.
Member of Parliament	Dan Mazier – Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa	Nov 20, 2023 Jan 26 Jan 28	The local MP has been kept well informed throughout with these three virtual meetings, as well as with email exchanges with his office. Meeting on Jan 26 included DFO, Province of MB and PC to answer questions about the science. The engagement on Jan 28 came as a surprise as he was present at an online meeting of the business community. MP Mazier has written the Minister stating his support to maintain the same restrictions that were in place for 2023, and is concerned that further restrictions would hurt the business and economy of the region.
	Larry Maguire - Brandon	Nov 20, 2023	After initial notification of retrieval of mussels, has been updated via email.
Province of Manitoba	Jeff Long – Director, AIS Unit	Routine	Dr. Long provided advice and expertise on zebra mussel mitigation from a provincial perspective at December 6 “Summit” involving PCA, DFO and Province. PC is working closely with the province to minimize the impact of this discovery. Province supports approach and wants strong action if possible, to attempt eradication. There is regular and strong transparent communication between PC and the Director on all matters of this file.
Municipalities	Ian Drul & RM Harrison Park	Routine	Reeve Drul has routinely stated his support for strong protection of waters of Clear Lake and advocates for a closure of the lake for 2024 to allow for potential treatment. Concerned about spread to other waterbodies in the region. No official position yet from the RM Council.
	Ken Cameron – Town of Minnedosa	Nov 20, 2023 Jan 29	Stated concern for impact on Town of Minnedosa and local businesses at Jan 29 meeting of WestMan municipal leaders. Has not responded to further communication.

Sector	Rep/Org	Dates of engagement	Synopsis
	David Bosiak – Mayor of City of Dauphin	Nov 20, 2023 ongoing	Mayor Bosiak has been kept updated in an informal manner, as part of conversations on other topics related to trail development, tourism initiatives, and the development of a Memorandum of Understanding. Generally supportive of restrictions which protect the long-term health of Clear Lake and surrounding water bodies, but no formal position provided.
	Jeff Fawcett – Mayor of City of Brandon	Nov 20, 2023	Received initial information about discovery of mussels in Clear Lake, has been kept informed via email since. Has expressed understanding of importance of the issue. No formal position provided.
	Association of Manitoba Municipalities	April 11, 2024 (planned)	RMNP will be on a panel with Province of MB at the AMM spring convention. Expect to present to 80-100 elected and non-elected municipal leaders. To date information has been provided to the President of the AMM via email and there have been a handful of phone conversations.
	Elected officials from municipalities of: Russell-Binscarth, Yellowhead, Erickson, Harrison-Park, Rosburn, Hamiota, Westlake-Gladstone, Minto-Odana, Prairie View, Oakview, Riding Mountain West, Town of Neepawa, Town of Minnedosa	Jan 29	RMNP attended a meeting of 12 western Manitoba municipal leaders. Heard general support for restrictions in 2024 if it meant possible eradication of costly long-term invasion.
	RM Harrison-Park	March 13, 2024	Reeve Ian Drul – informed PC the will of council is to not provide a written position, but to state a general support for whatever path is taken by Parks Canada
Destination Marketing	Clear Lake Country DMO	Nov 20, 2023	Appears to be the centre of disagreement on the Chamber of Commerce, the head of the DMO strongly opposes any restrictions further than what

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Organizations (Tourism)		Jan 24 & 28 Mar 1 & 13 & 19, 2024	was in place in 2023. The head of the organization appears to have initiated a letter writing campaign calling for further engagement and stating concerns about potential economic impact of restrictions to lake access. This campaign resulted in the submission of approximately 250 emails. The DMO is represented in letters to the PCEO and Minister expressing concern about the level of consultation. A version of one of these letters was also sent to the Premier of Manitoba and members of provincial cabinet. Mar 13 – Karly McRae - responded to concerns, inquired as to her opinion on sufficient engagement – response – “town hall meetings” Mar 19 – Karly McRae – she expressed gratitude for extension of DIA comment period. Had a preliminary discussion of potential economic analysis of tourism industry to provide ground truthed information about the industry’s economic significance.
	Travel Manitoba	Jan 29, 2024	President and CEO Colin Ferguson indicated Travel MB would “vigorously challenge” any restrictions that went beyond 2023. Has routinely stated concerns about economic impact to the tourism industry if restrictions are put in place for boat access to Clear Lake.
	Indigenous Tourism Manitoba	Mar 5, 2024	Represented in a letter sent to the Minister as well as the Premier of Manitoba and some provincial cabinet members outlining concerns about the implications for tourism business if there are restrictions in 2024. Following a discussion, the leader of ITM has a much clearer understanding of the situation and indicated some regret at allowing her organization to be represented in the letter. She indicated support for Parks Canada engagement, expressed an understanding of the complexity of the situation.
Business Organizations	Multiple Wasagaming Chamber of Commerce representatives, including executive and members.	Nov 20, 2023 Jan 24 & 28 via email since March 15, 2024	The situation with the Wasagaming CoC is complex, with apparent disagreement and a clear divide among members and executive. Letters sent to PCEO and Minister were sent without the knowledge or support of the President or executive. These letters expressed concern about a lack of adequate consultation, as well as stated opposition to any further restrictions to lake access in 2024. The CoC requested attendance by RMNP representatives at a meeting held on Jan 28. The tone and approach was

Sector	Rep/Org	Dates of engagement	Synopsis
			aggressive and antagonistic toward Parks Canada, with a small number of loud voices expressing opposition to anything other than what was in place in 2023. One member present told Parks Canada she and others would ignore any restrictions on lake use and there was nothing that could be done to stop it. There were questions about the Superintendent's authority. PC staff were not aware the MP would be present before the meeting started. Following this confrontational meeting PC informed the Chamber executive that park staff would not participate in future meetings but would provide information in writing. Despite this, the relationship with the President remains very strong, and he has expressed personal support for stronger restrictions in 2024. Other members have quietly expressed this as well, but the vocal minority on the Chamber appears to be actively mobilizing opposition to potential restrictions and appears to be in regular communication with the local MP. March 15 – Chuck Davidson, Manitoba Chambers of Commerce – Information sharing.
	Erickson Chamber of Commerce	Jan 24, Jan 28	Representatives have expressed personal support for tighter restrictions in 2024. No formal position provided.
	Turtle Village/Coalition rep for Gambler FN	Dec 6, Jan 24, 28, Feb 2	Turtle Village operates within Wasagaming Campground and an ice fishing operation on Clear Lake. The proprietor is also the Coalition rep for Gambler FN. She has expressed direct opposition to Parks Canada taking any action to limit access to the lake, or to undertaking any potential eradication treatment.  Park response in every instance has been to state willingness and strong interest in hearing from the leadership or membership of any of the Coalition Nations. No invitation to engage in this manner has yet been received.
Wasagaming Leaseholders	Cottage Owners Association executive	Nov 20, 2023 Jan 24, 2024 Feb 20, 2024	Reticence about boating restrictions for 2024, but understand and generally support temporary restrictions aimed at potential eradication for 2024 only.

Sector	Rep/Org	Dates of engagement	Synopsis
			Prefer to see same program as in place for 2023. Expressed safety concerns about not having boat egress from North Shore in event of forest fire.
	Cabin Owners Association executive	Nov 20, Jan 24, Feb 7	Provided written position on February 8, expressing support for restricting watercraft to use either Clear Lake or another waterbody.
NGOs	Friends of RMNP	Multiple discussions	Has expressed support for protecting the long-term health of Clear Lake and that ecological integrity should be at the fore of decision-making process.
	RM Biosphere Reserve Assoc	Multiple discussions	Provided written position on February 6 <sup>th</sup> expressing support for complete ban of all watercraft on Clear Lake for 2024.
	Nature Conservancy of Canada	Feb 5	Informed. Expressed support for measures to protect the long-term health of the lake
	Assiniboine West Watershed District	Jan 24	Has verbally expressed support for taking steps to eradicate, should they be possible
	Sandy Lake Water Protection Group	Multiple discussions	Provided written position on February 8, expressing support for complete ban of all watercraft on Clear Lake for 2024.
Large gatherings/public meetings			
Zebra Mussel Summit	Parks Canada, the Coalition of First Nations with Interests in RMNP (Senior Official, rep for Gambler FN and Youth Rep), Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Province of Manitoba's AIS Unit met for a day long summit.	Dec 6, in person at Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Freshwater Institute at the University of Manitoba	Notes can be provided from this meeting. General agreement about the issue at hand, potential way forward, as well as agreement to work closely together to minimize the impact of the finding.
Core Stakeholder Meeting	Marina operator, MP Dan Mazier, RM Harrison-Park, Wasagaming CoC, Clear	January 24	Notes can be provided for this meeting.

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	Lake Country DMO, Erickson CoC, Turtle Village (also Coalition Rep for Gambler FN), Cabin Owner Assoc, Cottage Owner Assoc, Assiniboine West Watershed District, RM Biosphere Reserve, Elkhorn Resort, Sandy Lake Water Protection Group, Friends of RMNP		
General Public	In person, Onanole, ~65 participants	December 12, 2023	Community conversation outlining the situation and laying the groundwork for next steps
	In person, Brandon, ~125 participants	December 13, 2023	Many questions about the suspicious nature of the finding (attached to rope).
	Virtual, Facebook Live ~300 participants	January 18, 2023	
<b>Email engagement details</b>			
<p>Users of more than 278 unique email addresses have asked to be kept informed via email updates. To date, updates have been provided on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Test results for water monitoring and eDNA analysis.</li> <li>- Discovery of living mussels.</li> <li>- Date and time of public engagement opportunities</li> <li>- Infographics used at public sessions</li> </ul> <p>Park staff have engaged in ~50 email chains on the topic since November 2023. Many are requests for information about the mussels and for what it will mean for lake use. Answers draw from pre-approved key messages.</p> <p>Following a letter writing campaign, the FUS received approximately 250 emails, most of which included the form letter provided as part of this campaign. Of the emails received approximately 225 opposed any further restrictions to boating on Clear Lake (most of these identified as boat owners) and approximately 25 expressed support for further restrictions to protect the long-term health of the lake. Responses were sent to all who submitted emails.</p>			
<b>Media engagement details</b>			



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<p>Extensive media engagement followed the retrieval of mussels from Boat Cove. Between Nov 20 and 24, 20 separate articles or stories appeared in print, online and broadcast form. Interviews were provided to seven outlets. Since November 20 the zebra mussel situation in Clear Lake has been the focus of at least 29 known media stories.</p> <p>Outlets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Winnipeg Free Press</li> <li>- Winnipeg Sun</li> <li>- CKDM Radio Dauphin</li> <li>- MSN Canada</li> <li>- Brandon Sun</li> <li>- Global TV</li> <li>- Discover Westman</li> <li>- Yahoo</li> <li>- CBC Manitoba</li> <li>- CityTV</li> <li>- Q Country Radio</li> <li>- Minnedosa Tribune</li> <li>- Radio Canada</li> <li>- Corus Radio</li> <li>- Weather Network</li> <li>- South Mountain Press</li> </ul>			

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	David Bosiak – Mayor of City of Dauphin	Nov 20, 2023 ongoing	Mayor Bosiak has been kept updated in an informal manner, as part of conversations on other topics related to trail development, tourism initiatives, and the development of a Memorandum of Understanding. Generally supportive of restrictions which protect the long-term health of Clear Lake and surrounding water bodies, but no formal position provided.
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Sector	Rep/Org	Dates of engagement	Synopsis
			<p>negative towards Parks Canada, with a small number of loud voices expressing opposition to anything other than what was in place in 2023. There were questions about the Superintendent's authority. PC staff were not aware the MP would be present before the meeting started. Following the meeting PC informed the Chamber executive that park staff would not participate in future meetings but would provide information in writing. The relationship with the President remains very strong, and he has expressed personal support for stronger restrictions in 2024. Other members have quietly expressed this as well, but the vocal minority on the Chamber appears to be opposing potential restrictions and is in regular communication with the local MP.</p> <p>March 15 – Chuck Davidson, Manitoba Chambers of Commerce – Information sharing.</p>
	Erickson Chamber of Commerce	Jan 24, Jan 28, 2024	Representatives have expressed personal support for tighter restrictions in 2024. No formal position provided.
	Ashely Smith - Turtle Village/Coalition rep for Gambler FN	Dec 6, Jan 24, 28, Feb 2, 2024	<p>Turtle Village operates within Wasagaming Campground and an ice fishing operation on Clear Lake. The proprietor is also the Coalition rep for Gambler FN. She has expressed direct opposition to Parks Canada taking any action to limit access to the lake, or to undertaking any potential eradication treatment.</p> <p>Park response has been to state willingness and strong interest in hearing from the leadership or membership of any of the Coalition Nations. No invitation to engage in this manner has yet been received.</p>
Wasagaming Leaseholders	Cottage Owners Association executive	Nov 20/23, 2023 Jan 24, 2024 Feb 20, 2024	<p>Reticent about boating restrictions for 2024 but understand and generally support temporary restrictions aimed at potential eradication for 2024 only. Prefer to see same program as in place for 2023. Expressed safety concerns about not having boat egress from North Shore in event of forest fire.</p>

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	RM Biosphere Reserve Assoc	Multiple discussions	Provided written position on February 6 <sup>th</sup> expressing support for complete ban of all watercraft on Clear Lake for 2024.
	Nature Conservancy of Canada	Feb 5, 2024	Informed. Expressed support for measures to protect the long-term health of the lake
	Assiniboine West Watershed District	Jan 24, 2024	Has verbally expressed support for taking steps to eradicate, should they be possible
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Large gatherings/public meetings			
Zebra Mussel Summit	Parks Canada, the Coalition of First Nations with Interests in RMNP (Senior Official, rep for Gambler FN and Youth Rep), Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Province of Manitoba's AIS Unit met for a day long summit.	Dec 6, 2023, in person at Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Freshwater Institute at the University of Manitoba	Notes can be provided from this meeting. General agreement about the issue at hand, potential way forward, as well as agreement to work closely together to minimize the impact of the finding.
Core Stakeholder Meeting	Marina operator, MP Dan Mazier, RM Harrison-Park, Wasagaming CoC, Clear Lake Country DMO,	January 24, 2024	Notes can be provided for this meeting.

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	Erickson CoC, Turtle Village (also Coalition Rep for Gambler FN), Cabin Owner Assoc, Cottage Owner Assoc, Assiniboine West Watershed District, RM Biosphere Reserve, Elkhorn Resort, Sandy Lake Water Protection Group, Friends of RMNP		
General Public	In person, Onanole, ~65 participants	December 12, 2023	Community conversation outlining the situation and laying the groundwork for next steps
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<b>Email engagement details</b>			
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s.21(1)(a)

s.21(1)(b)

## **RMNP Indigenous Engagement and Consultation Summary – AIS Zebra Mussels Discovery.**

Attempts at consultation have been challenging.

Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation (KOFN) – Reserve land (IR61A) bordering Clear Lake. Clear Lake Management Agreement discussed over many years, but not finalized.

**November 20, 2023** - email to all Coalition Chiefs and Representatives (including KOFN) advising of the zebra mussel discovery.

- Follow-up email sent to KOFN Chief requesting meeting with Chief and Council to understand KOFN priorities going forward. No response.

**December 1, 2023** - Riding Mountain Forum (Coalition) meeting. James Plewak (Senior Official) identified as lead for any AIS issues going forward.

**December 6, 2023** – J. Plewak and Larry Beaton, representing KOFN, attend AIS Summit in Winnipeg. Express that ecological integrity should take precedence over tourism interests (also mentioned at several subsequent meetings).

- J. Plewak invited to all weekly meetings with DFO and provincial AIS team. He and/or L. Beaton attend most meetings.
- J. Plewak advises that John Whittaker has been engaged by KOFN as a scientific advisor and requests that all documentation be shared with him, and that he be invited to all meetings. **COMPLETED.**

**January 11, 2024** – J. Plewak invited to meeting with PAEC and IACH to discuss support for consultations relating to management actions for zebra mussels

**January 24, 2024** – J. Plewak attended Stakeholder Meeting to present KOFN/Coalition view to local stakeholders.

**January 26, 2024** - Senior Officials Forum meeting. Chief Blackbird attended for no more than 10 minutes. No council members in attendance. Zebra mussels discussed, but no guidance provided on way forward. Parks expressed interest to make decisions jointly, in the spirit of the Clear Lake agreement.

**February 2, 2024** - At RMNP request, Riding Mountain Forum (Coalition) meeting held (more below). No KOFN representative present.

- During multiple conversations with J. Plewak, RMNP has offered to attend community meetings to share AIS information, and to meet with Chief and Council.

**March 1, 2024** – J. Plewak forwarded the draft Detailed Impact Assessment to all Coalition Chiefs and Representatives. In his email, he states “Though a public information and public consultation process is being undertaken by Parks, we are mindful that when dealing with Section 35 rights, the First Nations are not considered “general public”. We assert, and Parks has recognized, that a distinct consultation process for Section 35 right-holders, especially where the exercise of these rights is being impacted, is required.

**March 8, 2024** – FUS conversation with Chief Blackbird.

## **Other Coalition Nations**

### **Coalition of First Nations with Interests in Riding Mountain National Park (Riding Mountain Forum)**

**November 20, 2023** - email to all Coalition Chiefs and Representatives (including KOFN) advising of the zebra mussel discovery.

**December 1, 2023** - Riding Mountain Forum (Coalition) meeting. Representatives from Sandy Bay FN and Gambler FN present. James Plewak (Senior Official) identified as lead for any AIS issues going forward.

**December 6, 2023** - Ashley Smith of Gambler FN, representing the Coalition, attended AIS Summit in Winnipeg. Advocated a two-eyed seeing approach to protect all life forms.

**January 16, 2024** - during weekly AIS calls, the question was posed to the Senior Official for the RMF (J. Plewak) if Parks should be going out to communities to discuss the issue.

**February 2, 2024** - Riding Mountain Forum meeting. Representatives from Gambler FN, Rolling River FN and Waywayseecapo FN present, along with an elder from KOFN. During this meeting, the representatives stated they fully support all efforts to detect if or where zebra mussels may be in Clear Lake. However, they would not support the application of a molluscicide to eradicate a colony if that is an option. They also stated they do not support any restrictions to boating on Clear Lake, that zebra mussels may be a natural change we have to adapt to.

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**February 21, 2024** - Email to all Coalition Chiefs and Reps providing an update on eDNA sampling.

**March 1, 2024** – J. Plewak forwarded the draft Detailed Impact Assessment to all Coalition Chiefs and Representatives. In his email, he states “Though a public information and public consultation process is being undertaken by Parks, we are mindful that when dealing with Section 35 rights, the First Nations are not considered “general public”. We assert, and Parks has recognized, that a distinct consultation process for Section 35 right-holders, especially where the exercise of these rights is being impacted, is required

March 18, 2024 - Email to all Coalition Chiefs and Reps providing an update on eDNA sampling.

### Rolling River First Nation

At the request of a community member, who is a former Parks Canada employee and who attended the Jan 24 Stakeholder Engagement Session as a representative of Clear Lake Country, an invitation was extended to RMNP to attend a meeting with Rolling River Chief and Council, Elders and Youth on **February 22**. No council members (or the Chief) attended the meeting, however there was good discussion with Elders, who expressed support for measures to protect the lake and watershed. They also expressed concern regarding Whirlpool Lake, which feeds into Rolling River, and requested that no boats be allowed in that system to protect their community from zebra mussels

### Gambler First Nation

Ashely Smith is the Coalition Representative. She is a business owner in Wasagaming (Turtle Village) and on the board of the Wasagaming Chamber of Commerce. She has expressed direct opposition to Parks Canada taking any action to limit access to the lake, or to undertaking any potential eradication treatment.

Park response in every instance has been to state willingness and strong interest in hearing from the leadership or membership of any of the Coalition Nations. No invitation to engage in this manner has been received.

### Challenges

- There are concerns that information isn't flowing from the Coalition Forums to communities, and *vice versa*
- 
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- Lack of experience in the Field Unit on Sec. 35 consultations. Requests have been made to identify someone who can lead the consultation processes, with no success to date.
- In addition to consultations with Coalition nations, consultation is required as part of the Detailed Impact Assessment on First Nations downstream of Clear Lake, and with the Manitoba Métis Federation. These consultations have not yet taken place.

## **RMNP Indigenous Engagement and Consultation Summary – AIS Zebra Mussels Discovery.**

Attempts at consultation have been challenging.

Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation (KOFN) – Reserve land (IR61A) bordering Clear Lake. Clear Lake Management Agreement discussed over many years, but not finalized.

**November 20, 2023** - email to all Coalition Chiefs and Representatives (including KOFN) advising of the zebra mussel discovery.

- Follow-up email sent to KOFN Chief requesting meeting with Chief and Council to understand KOFN priorities going forward. No response.

**December 1, 2023** - Riding Mountain Forum (Coalition) meeting. James Plewak (Senior Official) identified as lead for any AIS issues going forward.

**December 6, 2023** – J. Plewak and Larry Beaton, representing KOFN, attend AIS Summit in Winnipeg. Express that ecological integrity should take precedence over tourism interests (also mentioned at several subsequent meetings).

- J. Plewak invited to all weekly meetings with DFO and provincial AIS team. He and/or L. Beaton attend most meetings.
- J. Plewak advises that John Whittaker has been engaged by KOFN as a scientific advisor and requests that all documentation be shared with him, and that he be invited to all meetings. **COMPLETED.**

**January 11, 2024** – J. Plewak invited to meeting with PAEC and IACH to discuss support for consultations relating to management actions for zebra mussels.

**January 24, 2024** – J. Plewak attended Stakeholder Meeting to present KOFN/Coalition view to local stakeholders.

**January 26, 2024** - Senior Officials Forum meeting. Chief Blackbird attended for no more than 10 minutes. No council members in attendance. Zebra mussels discussed, but no guidance provided on way forward. Parks expressed interest to make decisions jointly, in the spirit of the Clear Lake agreement.

**February 2, 2024** - At RMNP request, Riding Mountain Forum (Coalition) meeting held (more below). No KOFN representative present.

- During multiple conversations with J. Plewak, RMNP has offered to attend community meetings to share AIS information, and to meet with Chief and Council.

**March 1, 2024** – J. Plewak forwarded the draft Detailed Impact Assessment to all Coalition Chiefs and Representatives. In his email, he states “Though a public information and public consultation process is being undertaken by Parks, we are mindful that when dealing with Section 35 rights, the First Nations are not considered “general public”. We assert, and Parks has recognized, that a distinct consultation process for Section 35 right-holders, especially where the exercise of these rights is being impacted, is required.

**March 8, 2024** – FUS conversation with Chief Blackbird.

**March 28, 2024** – Senior Officials Forum meeting (between KOFN and Parks Canada). Based on the precautionary principle, and the traditional idea of giving the lake a rest for the season, KOFN supports the Parks Canada preferred option, to close the lake to boats, with some exceptions, with the

### **Other Coalition Nations**

#### **Coalition of First Nations with Interests in Riding Mountain National Park (Riding Mountain Forum)**

**November 20, 2023** - email to all Coalition Chiefs and Representatives (including KOFN) advising of the zebra mussel discovery.

**December 1, 2023** - Riding Mountain Forum (Coalition) meeting. Representatives from Sandy Bay FN and Gambler FN present. James Plewak (Senior Official) identified as lead for any AIS issues going forward.

**December 6, 2023** - Ashley Smith of Gambler FN, representing the Coalition, attended AIS Summit in Winnipeg. Advocated a two-eyed seeing approach to protect all life forms.

**January 16, 2024** - during weekly AIS calls, the question was posed to the Senior Official for the RMF (J. Plewak) if Parks should be going out to communities to discuss the issue.

**February 2, 2024** - Riding Mountain Forum meeting. Representatives from Gambler FN, Rolling River FN and Waywayseecapo FN present, along with an elder from KOFN. During this meeting, the representatives stated they fully support all efforts to detect if or where zebra mussels may be in Clear Lake. However, they would not support the application of a molluscicide to eradicate a colony if that is an option. They also stated they do not support any restrictions to boating on Clear Lake, that zebra mussels may be a natural change we have to adapt to.

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**February 21, 2024** - Email to all Coalition Chiefs and Reps providing an update on eDNA sampling.

**March 1, 2024** – J. Plewak forwarded the draft Detailed Impact Assessment to all Coalition Chiefs and Representatives. In his email, he states “Though a public information and public consultation process is

being undertaken by Parks, we are mindful that when dealing with Section 35 rights, the First Nations are not considered "general public". We assert, and Parks has recognized, that a distinct consultation process for Section 35 right-holders, especially where the exercise of these rights is being impacted, is required.

March 18, 2024 - Email to all Coalition Chiefs and Reps providing an update on eDNA sampling.

### **Rolling River First Nation**

At the request of a community member, who is a former Parks Canada employee and who attended the Jan 24 Stakeholder Engagement Session as a representative of Clear Lake Country, an invitation was extended to RMNP to attend a meeting with Rolling River Chief and Council, Elders and Youth on **February 22**. No council members (or the Chief) attended the meeting, however there was good discussion with Elders, who expressed support for measures to protect the lake and watershed. They also expressed concern regarding Whirlpool Lake, which feeds into Rolling River, and requested that no boats be allowed in that system to protect their community from zebra mussels.

### **Gambler First Nation**

Ashely Smith is the Coalition Representative. She is a business owner in Wasagaming (Turtle Village) and on the board of the Wasagaming Chamber of Commerce. She has expressed direct opposition to Parks Canada taking any action to limit access to the lake, or to undertaking any potential eradication treatment.

Park response in every instance has been to state willingness and strong interest in hearing from the leadership or membership of any of the Coalition Nations. No invitation to engage in this manner has been received.

### **Challenges**

- There are concerns that information isn't flowing from the Coalition Forums to communities, and vice versa.
-

s.21(1)(a)

s.21(1)(b)

- 
- Lack of experience in the Field Unit on Sec. 35 consultations. Requests have been made to identify someone who can lead the consultation processes, with no success to date.
- In addition to consultations with Coalition nations, consultation is required as part of the Detailed Impact Assessment on First Nations downstream of Clear Lake, and with the Manitoba Métis Federation. These consultations have not yet taken place.



PK 2024-00436

Docket Consultation and Approval Form

Please provide this completed form with all dockets (scanned version accepted)

Document Type: Bullet Points

Lead Organization: Parks Canada

Security Classification: Choose an item.

Each and every field in this box is mandatory to proceed with the approval of a **briefing note (BN) to President & Chief Executive Officer or memorandum to Minister (MTM)**.  
If you are **not** submitting one of those types of documents, just the English document title is enough.

English Document Title:

Bullet points: Stakeholder consultations on zebra mussels

French Document Title:

Click here to enter the EXACT title of the document. Refer to [Title Convention Guidelines](#).

Vice-President approval to title disclosure in both official languages:

☐ Yes ☐ No\*

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Time Sensitivity Choose an item.

Justification Click here to enter text.

Directorate/ Operations	Drafter	Leanne Cooper
Business Unit	Title	Field Unit Superintendent
Branch/Field Unit Riding Mountain	Phone	204-901-0217

Directorate Approval – Vice-President approval, at minimum

Signing this form indicates that you approved this docket and that you agree to the proactive disclosure of the memo or note's title in English and French unless otherwise indicated above.

Name and job title	Signature ("approved by email" accepted)	Date
Jonah Mitchell, Executive Director	Approved by email	2024-03-27
Andrew Campbell, SVPO		2024-03-28

Consultations (check boxes and add additional lines as needed)

- ☐ Communications
- ☐ IACH
- ☐ SPP
- ☐ ECCC-Choose an item.
- ☐ ERVE
- ☐ Legal Services
- ☐ VEDI
- ☐ ECCC-Choose an item.
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Operations
- ☐ Internal Audit and Evaluation
- ☐ Other government department Click here to enter text.
- ☐ HR
- ☐ PAEC
- ☐ RPA
- ☐ N/A

Name and job title	Directorate/Field Unit	Date	Initials

Additional notes for President & Chief Executive Officer or Minister's Office

Click here to enter text.

President & CEO Approval:

Date:



## RMNP Stakeholder Engagement on Zebra Mussels in Clear Lake – Synopsis

Sector	Rep/Org	Dates of engagement	Synopsis
Marina Operator	Kelsey Connor	Nov 20 & 24, 2023 Jan 16, 24, 28, 31, 2024 Feb 6, 9, 13, 20, 29, 2024	Kelsey has been treated as a partner throughout. He receives information and is engaged on a level that is at par with the Coalition of First Nations, the MP, and Municipal leaders, in advance of information flowing to other stakeholders and the public. Has expressed willingness to work with PC on solutions and is currently considering option to operate the Martese for 2024. Main interest is in long-term health of the lake and viability of marina business.
Member of Parliament	Dan Mazier – Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa	Nov 20, 2023 Jan 26, 2024 Jan 28, 2024	The local MP has been kept well informed throughout with these three virtual meetings, as well as with email exchanges with his office. Meeting on Jan 26 included DFO, Province of MB and PC to answer questions about the science. The engagement on Jan 28 came as a surprise as he was present at an online meeting of the business community. MP Mazier has written the Minister stating his support to maintain the same restrictions that were in place for 2023, and is concerned that further restrictions would hurt the business and economy of the region.
	Larry Maguire - Brandon	Nov 20, 2023	After initial notification of retrieval of mussels, has been updated via email.
Province of Manitoba	Jeff Long – Director, AIS Unit	Routine	Dr. Long provided advice and expertise on zebra mussel mitigation from a provincial perspective at December 6 “Summit” involving PCA, DFO and Province. PC is working closely with the province to minimize the impact of this discovery. Province supports approach and wants strong action if possible, to attempt eradication. There is regular and strong transparent communication between PC and the Director on all matters of this file.
Municipalities	Ian Drul & RM Harrison Park	Routine	Reeve Drul has routinely stated his support for strong protection of waters of Clear Lake and advocates for a closure of the lake for 2024 to allow for potential treatment. Concerned about spread to other waterbodies in the region. No official position yet from the RM Council.
	Ken Cameron – Town of Minnedosa	Nov 20, 2023 Jan 29, 2024	Stated concern for impact on Town of Minnedosa and local businesses at Jan 29 meeting of WestMan municipal leaders. Has not responded to further communication.

Sector	Rep/Org	Dates of engagement	Synopsis
	David Bosiak – Mayor of City of Dauphin	Nov 20, 2023 ongoing	Mayor Bosiak has been kept updated in an informal manner, as part of conversations on other topics related to trail development, tourism initiatives, and the development of a Memorandum of Understanding. Generally supportive of restrictions which protect the long-term health of Clear Lake and surrounding water bodies, but no formal position provided.
	Jeff Fawcett – Mayor of City of Brandon	Nov 20, 2023	Received initial information about discovery of mussels in Clear Lake, has been kept informed via email since. Has expressed understanding of importance of the issue. No formal position provided.
	Association of Manitoba Municipalities	April 11, 2024 (planned)	RMNP will be on a panel with Province of MB at the AMM spring convention. Expect to present to 80-100 elected and non-elected municipal leaders. To date information has been provided to the President of the AMM via email and there have been a handful of phone conversations.
	Elected officials from municipalities of: Russell-Binscarth, Yellowhead, Erickson, Harrison-Park, Rossburn, Hamiota, Westlake-Gladstone, Minto-Odana, Prairie View, Oakview, Riding Mountain West, Town of Neepawa, Town of Minnedosa	Jan 29, 2024	RMNP attended a meeting of 12 western Manitoba municipal leaders. Heard general support for restrictions in 2024 if it meant possible eradication of costly long-term invasion.
	RM Harrison-Park	March 13, 2024	Reeve Ian Drul – informed PC the will of council is to not provide a written position, but to state a general support for whatever path is taken by Parks Canada
Destination Marketing	Clear Lake Country DMO	Nov 20, 2023	Appears to be the centre of disagreement on the Chamber of Commerce, the head of the DMO strongly opposes any restrictions further than what

Sector	Rep/Org	Dates of engagement	Synopsis
Organizations (Tourism)		Jan 24 & 28, 2024 Mar 1 & 13 & 19, 2024	was in place in 2023. The head of the organization appears to have initiated a letter writing campaign calling for further engagement and stating concerns about potential economic impact of restrictions to lake access. This campaign resulted in the submission of approximately 250 emails. The DMO is represented in letters to the PCEO and Minister expressing concern about the level of consultation. A version of one of these letters was also sent to the Premier of Manitoba and members of provincial cabinet. Mar 13, 2024 – Karly McRae - responded to concerns, inquired as to her opinion on sufficient engagement Mar 19, 2024 – Karly McRae –expressed gratitude for extension of DIA comment period. Had a preliminary discussion of potential economic analysis of tourism industry to provide ground truthed information about the industry's economic significance.
	Travel Manitoba	Jan 29, 2024	President and CEO Colin Ferguson indicated Travel MB would “vigorously challenge” any restrictions that went beyond 2023. Has routinely stated concerns about economic impact to the tourism industry if restrictions are put in place for boat access to Clear Lake.
	Indigenous Tourism Manitoba	Mar 5, 2024	Represented in a letter sent to the Minister as well as the Premier of Manitoba and some provincial cabinet members outlining concerns about the implications for tourism business if there are restrictions in 2024. Following a discussion, the leader of ITM has a much clearer understanding of the situation and indicated some regret at allowing her organization to be represented in the letter. She indicated support for Parks Canada engagement, expressed an understanding of the complexity of the situation.
Business Organizations	Multiple Wasagaming Chamber of Commerce representatives, including executive and members.	Nov 20, 2023 Jan 24 & 28, 2024 via email since March 15, 2024	The situation with the Wasagaming CoC is complex, with apparent disagreement among members and executive. Letters sent to PCEO and Minister were sent without the knowledge or support of the President or executive. These letters expressed concern about a lack of adequate consultation, as well as stated opposition to any further restrictions to lake access in 2024. The CoC requested attendance by RMNP representatives at a meeting held on Jan 28. The tone and approach of the meeting was

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s.21(1)(b)

Sector	Rep/Org	Dates of engagement	Synopsis
			<p>negative towards Parks Canada, with a small number of loud voices expressing opposition to anything other than what was in place in 2023. <del>One member present told Parks Canada she and others would ignore any restrictions on lake use and there was nothing that could be done to stop it.</del> There were questions about the Superintendent's authority. PC staff were not aware the MP would be present before the meeting started. Following <del>this confrontational</del>the meeting PC informed the Chamber executive that park staff would not participate in future meetings but would provide information in writing. <del>Despite this, the</del>The relationship with the President remains very strong, and he has expressed personal support for stronger restrictions in 2024. Other members have quietly expressed this as well, but the vocal minority on the Chamber appears to <del>be actively mobilizing opposition</del>be opposing to potential restrictions and appears to <del>be</del>is in regular communication with the local MP.</p> <p>March 15 – Chuck Davidson, Manitoba Chambers of Commerce – Information sharing.</p>
	Erickson Chamber of Commerce	Jan 24, Jan 28, 2024	Representatives have expressed personal support for tighter restrictions in 2024. No formal position provided.
	Turtle Village/Coalition rep for Gambler FN	Dec 6, Jan 24, 28, Feb 2, 2024	<p>Turtle Village operates within Wasagaming Campground and an ice fishing operation on Clear Lake. The proprietor is also the Coalition rep for Gambler FN. She has expressed direct opposition to Parks Canada taking any action to limit access to the lake, or to undertaking any potential eradication treatment.</p> <p>Park response <del>in every instance</del> has been to state willingness and strong interest in hearing from the leadership or membership of any of the Coalition Nations. No invitation to engage in this manner has yet been received.</p>
Wasagaming Leaseholders	Cottage Owners Association executive	Nov 20/23, 2023 Jan 24, 2024	<p><del>Reticence</del> <del>Reticent</del> about boating restrictions for 2024, but <del>2024 but</del> understand and generally support temporary restrictions aimed at potential eradication for 2024 only. Prefer to see same program as in place for 2023.</p>

Sector	Rep/Org	Dates of engagement	Synopsis
		Feb 20, 2024	Expressed safety concerns about not having boat egress from North Shore in event of forest fire.
	Cabin Owners Association executive	Nov 20, Jan 24, Feb 7, 2024	Provided written position on February 8, expressing support for restricting watercraft to use either Clear Lake or another waterbody.
NGOs	Friends of RMNP	Multiple discussions	Has expressed support for protecting the long-term health of Clear Lake and that ecological integrity should be at the fore of decision-making process.
	RM Biosphere Reserve Assoc	Multiple discussions	Provided written position on February 6 <sup>th</sup> expressing support for complete ban of all watercraft on Clear Lake for 2024.
	Nature Conservancy of Canada	Feb 5, 2024	Informed. Expressed support for measures to protect the long-term health of the lake
	Assiniboine West Watershed District	Jan 24, 2024	Has verbally expressed support for taking steps to eradicate, should they be possible
	Sandy Lake Water Protection Group	Multiple discussions	Provided written position on February 8, expressing support for complete ban of all watercraft on Clear Lake for 2024.
Large gatherings/public meetings			
Zebra Mussel Summit	Parks Canada, the Coalition of First Nations with Interests in RMNP (Senior Official, rep for Gambler FN and Youth Rep), Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Province of Manitoba's AIS Unit met for a day long summit.	Dec 6, 2023, in person at Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Freshwater Institute at the University of Manitoba	Notes can be provided from this meeting. General agreement about the issue at hand, potential way forward, as well as agreement to work closely together to minimize the impact of the finding.
Core Stakeholder Meeting	Marina operator, MP Dan Mazier, RM Harrison-Park,	January 24, 2024	Notes can be provided for this meeting.

Sector	Rep/Org	Dates of engagement	Synopsis
	Wasagaming CoC, Clear Lake Country DMO, Erickson CoC, Turtle Village (also Coalition Rep for Gambler FN), Cabin Owner Assoc, Cottage Owner Assoc, Assiniboine West Watershed District, RM Biosphere Reserve, Elkhorn Resort, Sandy Lake Water Protection Group, Friends of RMNP		
General Public	In person, Onanole, ~65 participants	December 12, 2023	Community conversation outlining the situation and laying the groundwork for next steps
	In person, Brandon, ~125 participants	December 13, 2023	Many questions about the suspicious nature of the finding (attached to rope).
	Virtual, Facebook Live ~300 participants	January 18, 2023	
<b>Email engagement details</b>			
<p>Users of more than 278 unique email addresses have asked to be kept informed via email updates. To date, updates have been provided on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Test results for water monitoring and eDNA analysis.</li> <li>- Discovery of living mussels.</li> <li>- Date and time of public engagement opportunities</li> <li>- Infographics used at public sessions</li> </ul> <p>Park staff have engaged in ~50 email chains on the topic since November 2023. Many are requests for information about the mussels and for what it will mean for lake use. Answers draw from pre-approved key messages.</p> <p>Following a letter writing campaign, the FUS received approximately 250 emails, most of which included the form letter provided as part of this campaign. Of the emails received approximately 225 opposed any further restrictions to boating on Clear Lake (most of these identified as boat owners) and approximately 25 expressed support for further restrictions to protect the long-term health of the lake. Responses were sent to all who submitted emails.</p>			
<b>Media engagement details</b>			

Sector	Rep/Org	Dates of engagement	Synopsis
<p>Extensive media engagement followed the retrieval of mussels from Boat Cove. Between Nov 20 and 24, 20 separate articles or stories appeared in print, online and broadcast form. Interviews were provided to seven outlets. Since November 20 the zebra mussel situation in Clear Lake has been the focus of at least 29 known media stories.</p> <p>Outlets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Winnipeg Free Press</li> <li>- Winnipeg Sun</li> <li>- CKDM Radio Dauphin</li> <li>- MSN Canada</li> <li>- Brandon Sun</li> <li>- Global TV</li> <li>- Discover Westman</li> <li>- Yahoo</li> <li>- CBC Manitoba</li> <li>- CityTV</li> <li>- Q Country Radio</li> <li>- Minnedosa Tribune</li> <li>- Radio Canada</li> <li>- Corus Radio</li> <li>- Weather Network</li> <li>- South Mountain Press</li> </ul>			