



Report

Users Consultative Committee Meeting – Lake Kipawa Concerted Management Plan

Tuesday, June 4, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:50 p.m., community hall,
Municipality of Kipawa

1) Introduction of participants

The meeting opened with the introduction of participants around the table. The attendance was as follows:

Users Consultative Committee			
Groups	Representatives	Present - June 4, 2013 meeting	Absent - June 4, 2013 meeting
Municipalities			
Témiscaming	Philippe Barrette	x	
Kipawa	Norman Young	x	
Laniel	Yvon Gagnon (substitute Susie Trudel)	x	
Béarn	Luc Lalonde		x
Environmental & community sector			
Environmental organisation	APART: Johanne Descôteaux (substitute Doris Hénault)	x	
Lake association	Henri Laforest	x	
Users association	Vacationers: Daniel Goulet (also Témiscaming-Kipawa Chamber of Commerce)	x	
Hunters, anglers	Gino Lafrenière		x
Citizens	André Lapierre, Claude Bérubé, Clyde et Thomas Mongrain, Karen Kowalchuk, Stephen Kilburn	All present	
Economic sector			
Outfitters (economic & tourism sector)	Yves Bouthillette (substitute Réjean Baudoin)	x	
Tourism	Simon Laquerre (substitute Dany Gareau, Ghyslaine Dessureault also consulted)	x	
Industrial sector	Claude Brisson (Matamec)	x	
Témis-accord Chamber of Commerce	Robin Larochelle	x	
First Nations			
Eagle Village	To be determined		
Wolf Lake	To be determined		

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

- ❖ Department of Natural Resources:
 - Alain Fort, biologist, Direction de l'expertise Énergie-Faune-Forêts-Mines-Territoire
 - Jean-Pierre Hamel, biologist, Direction de l'expertise Énergie-Faune-Forêts-Mines-Territoire
 - Pascal Martel, responsible for land planning and management at the regional level
- ❖ MRC de Témiscamingue: Daniel Dufault, coordinator, land management and regional development

A presentation on the water level issue was made by Andrée Bilodeau, Centre d'expertise hydrique du Québec.

The following members of the Steering Committee were present:

- Tomy Boucher, assistant director general, MRC de Témiscamingue
- Ambroise Lycke, director general, Organisme de bassin versant du Témiscamingue
- Claude Massé, head of management unit, Department of Natural Resources in Ville-Marie.

2) The agenda was adopted

3) Brief summary of the Lake Kipawa Concerted Management Plan process

The project was summarised by the project officer; he reminded that the details are provided in the project plan available at the following address:

http://obvt.ca/fichiers/Plan_de_projet_lac-Kipawa_0.pdf

The Concerted Management Plan is an initiative of the MRC de Témiscamingue who mandated the OBVT to write the plan and organise the process.

It's a dynamic process with timeframes and successive phases to advance the management plan that would ideally be completed in January 2014. A question from the audience allowed clarifying the following point: the Lake Kipawa Concerted Management Plan could be completed early next year, but the actions and recommendations will be gradually implemented over the next few years.

The public consultation was held on April 18, 2013 and the first meeting of the Users Consultation Committee represents the first steps in drafting the Concerted Management Plan. Indeed, this Committee will be called upon to comment and enrich the content of the Management Plan.

This Concerted Management Plan is unprecedented for a wildlife territory in the region. The purpose is not to promote development at all costs but rather to conduct a complete assessment of the situation: what are the lake's characteristics (literature review and reports from specialists) and what do the people concerned want? Proposals for action can also be made. The document will not be decisional but the more comprehensive it is, the more the deciders will be able to make wise choices.

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.

In parallel, the Users Consultation Committee is present to ensure a follow-up as the process evolves; its role and functioning are described in the following section.

4) Role and functioning of the Users Consultation Committee

The Users Consultation Committee was created to ensure a close follow-up of the project and gather the concerns of all the actors around the lake. The Consultation Committee's role is not only to validate documents or comments, it is truly useful to provide guidance to the project and ensure that documents accurately reflect the different interests.

The Committee will hold three meetings during the year and will pursue the following objectives:

❖ 1st meeting (June 4, 2013):

- 1st meeting of the Users Consultation Committee (introduction, motivations to sit on the Committee)
- The role and expectations of the Users Consultation Committee members
- Comments on the first concerns brought up at the general public consultation meeting, specific meetings and from the survey
- Position of the group they represent

Concluded with concerns and intentions regarding development.

❖ 2nd meeting (July)

Consultation on the orientations, the collective concerted development objectives and Lake Kipawa's vocation. In concrete terms, the Committee will have to define the elements that allow reaching a consensus around the table as well as the dissenting elements.

❖ 3rd meeting (October)

Consultation on Lake Kipawa action and zoning plan

- The meetings will be held in the evening on weekdays at the Kipawa community hall; supper will be served on site.
- Travel expenses for volunteers will be paid at the rate of 0.40 \$/km upon presentation of an expense claim sent to the project manager.
- The documents produced as the process unfolds will be sent to the Users Consultation Committee for review and comments.
- The Committee's membership was approved unanimously.

5) Presentation of the consultation's results and comments

The public consultation workshops and the survey have allowed gathering the opinions of a large number of people: about 100 persons attended the public consultation meeting and 140 survey questionnaires were completed.

Many actors made comments or asked questions that were integrated in the document found in Appendix 1: Detailed Results.

6) Break

Modification to the agenda

It was moved and agreed that the drawdown issue be presented before the users groups' concerns. The purpose is to inform the participants on this problem.

7) Presentation on the drawdown issue by Andrée Bilodeau, Centre d'expertise hydrique du Québec

Ms Bilodeau's presentation included three main parts:

- Presentation of the Centre d'expertise hydrique du Québec and the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board
- Management of the Kipawa reservoir
- Reservoir's fall drawdown

Following requests, the presentation was shared in a courtesy translation form, see Appendix 2: Presentation of the impounded water management plan of Kipawa reservoir. Appendix 3: Operational constraints – Kipawa reservoir provides a complete summary of the water levels in the past year.

There were many questions and comments. The main points addressed were the following:

- Need to have regular communication between the Centre d'expertise hydrique and the public to allow for a good understanding of the issue
- Need to involve the local population in the decisions concerning water levels
- There were questions on Gordon Creek's dam (Has it changed? Is pollution carried more by the overflow at the surface or at the bottom? Will it be renovated soon?)
- Fish populations are threatened by water levels, among others

- The minimum levels that can be reached in the fall raised many questions

8) Presentation of concerns and development intentions (or not) by each group's representatives

A presentation by each representative was made and the summary is presented in Appendix 4.

9) Meeting evaluation and discussion on the next meeting of the Users Consultation Committee

The meeting was appreciated by all and the next meeting is planned for July, based on the same format.

Appendix 1: Detailed Results

Concerns

Concerns may be broken down into 11 groups of ideas and 44 subgroups from an initial number of 284.

- Land occupancy
- Invading species
- Water level
- Water quality
- Fish
- Fishing
- Maintening quality
- Protection
- On-going project follow-up
- Post-project
- Others

The main groups of ideas are detailed below:

Main groups of ideas	Subgroups of ideas
❖ Land occupancy	Risk of limiting access to the land by privatising and losing one of the last major public water body
	Regularise the Lake Grindstone situation
	Unauthorised cottages, including where recorded projects were already planned
❖ Invading species	Have more information (zebra mussel and others)
	Preventive control to avoid their introduction
❖ Water level	Priority action on this point
	Impacts on fish populations
	Level control (supervised by local people)
	It causes erosion
	Current levels are not consistent with population's needs.
❖ Water quality	Need to maintain and ensure compliance of septic systems and install new compliant ones in new constructions
	Need for emptying and cleaning stations for boats
	Protect the whole watershed to preserve water resources
	No additional use as it would pose a threat to water quality
❖ Water quality	Monitor quality

Main groups of ideas	Subgroups of ideas
	Need to have shoreline buffer strips (important role of municipalities).
❖ Fish	Need for additional and innovative protection measures
	Decrease of already fragile populations, avoid additional pressure
	Drawdown effect
❖ Fishing	Overfishing, including the use of nets: to be controlled
	Maintain and restore fishing quality: maintain stocking programs, resolve drawdown problems, impose new limits for fish size and quota, catch-and-release
	What will happen with ice fishing?
❖ Maintaining quality	Keep the lake as it is now: beautiful, quiet, natural, wildlife supportive, sufficiently accessible and visited, with its Aboriginal richness, no additional hunting and fishing, maintain the moratorium's positive impact
	Be able to maintain current activities (swimming, fishing, exploring, water-skiing, etc.)
	Avoid mistakes made on other lakes that lost their initial quality
	Protect this important canoeable waterway (notably between Lake Temagami and Lake Dumoine)
	Increased supervision by wildlife officers.
❖ Protection	Protect fauna and flora, the environment, landscapes and the whole ecosystem, leaving no ecological footprints
	Protect beauty, quietness
	Protect against deforestation, overcutting and replant trees after harvesting
	Protect the lake against pollution
	Enforce current regulations
❖ On-going project follow-up through regular communication on the project and providing updates to the general public.	
❖ Others	Visual and noise pollution
	Regulate boating on the lake and in marinas for safety purposes. For example, regulate speed and enforce regulations

Main groups of ideas	Subgroups of ideas
❖ Others	Avoid unfair competition by cottage owners against outfitters
	Fight against tax increase
	Enhance relations with Aboriginal people
	Inform the public and the actors on the lake's condition
	Improve knowledge on the local environment
	Develop a short and long term management plan
	Anticipate and manage the increasing demand, considering the proximity with Ontario and the national park
	Take into account the operation of gravel and sand pits in the study area
❖ After the project, efforts will need to be made to involve the population including after January 31, 2014.	

Reasons for refusing development

From the 130 suggestions, 8 of these reasons for opposing development emerged, with 16 rationales.

- Adverse effect on lake's integrity and quality of life
- Negative impacts
- Against industrial development (mining, hydro development, etc.)
- Against cottage rental
- Maintaining the lake as is now
- Against Opémican Park
- Against outfitting development and commercial development
- Against vacationing sector development

Reasons to oppose development	Rationales for refusing development
❖ Adverse effect on lake's integrity and quality of life	The lake will no longer be what it is now if developed
	Current beauty of the lake makes it attractive
	Preserve quietness, low number of users, limited traffic (road and waterway) and fishing at current levels
❖ Negative impacts	Traffic increase

Reasons to oppose development	Rationales for refusing development
More development could result in...	Increased wood cutting
	Decreased or increased property value (depending on beneficial or detrimental land development)
	Overfishing and illegal fishing trade
	Pollution causing decrease in water and air quality
	Decreased lake popularity (ensured by low development)
	Development of new camping grounds would adversely affect the existing one.
❖ Against industrial development (mining, hydro development, etc.) that could threaten water quality and lake viability.	
❖ Against cottage rental that causes unfair competition to outfitters.	
❖ Maintaining the lake as is now.	
❖ Against Opémican Park.	
❖ Against outfitting development and commercial development: there is already enough and a number of outfitters can hardly make it.	
❖ Against vacationing sector development (including Aboriginal): would put pressure on lake, water, fauna and flora.	

Types of development considered

A total of 74 development ideas are considered and they were broken down into 10 main groups and 27 modalities.

- Development
- Development based on outdoor activities and respect for nature
- Development in already developed sectors
- Fish farming development
- Limited and controlled development
- To be developed for boating
- Other type of development
- Positive impact on the economy
- Legislation
- Compliance

Main groups of ideas for development	Modalities
❖ Development of new building lots	<p>Develop because it's impossible to build in ZECs and parks</p> <hr/> <p>Give access to new lots</p>
❖ Development based on outdoor activities and respect for nature	<p>Lake Kipawa could become a preferred destination for hunting and fishing</p> <hr/> <p>Create a park with the whole lake</p> <hr/> <p>Maintain the lake's history</p> <hr/> <p>If there is development, it must respect nature and even try to enhance its value.</p>
Development in already developed sectors: Kipawa, Laniel, Dorval Bay, MacAdam Bay, Lake Grindstone.	
❖ Fish farming development	<p>May represent a solution for certain people, for example, by using fishing license fees for funding.</p>
❖ Limited and controlled development	<p>Implement rules and develop in accordance with legislation (compliance ensured by MRC and MRN)</p> <hr/> <p>Develop with limited number of projects per year</p> <hr/> <p>Develop 10 to 20 cottages in 50 sectors</p> <hr/> <p>Develop an additional 10-20%, that's all</p> <hr/> <p>Develop at least at a distance of 500 metres from camping or portage sites</p> <hr/> <p>Improved reception facilities by opening public beaches, avoid privatising everything, implement quality recreational infrastructures</p> <hr/> <p>Control the purchase of outfitting businesses by individuals, promote controlled commercial development, based on what already exists (reinforce outfitting facilities, among others)</p> <hr/> <p>Develop progressively and supported by the necessary infrastructures (roads, garbage pick-up, septic tanks, etc.)</p> <hr/> <p>Develop to be able to take care of the lake and avoid its deterioration</p> <hr/> <p>Create an independent organisation mandated to ensure the protection and monitoring of the</p>

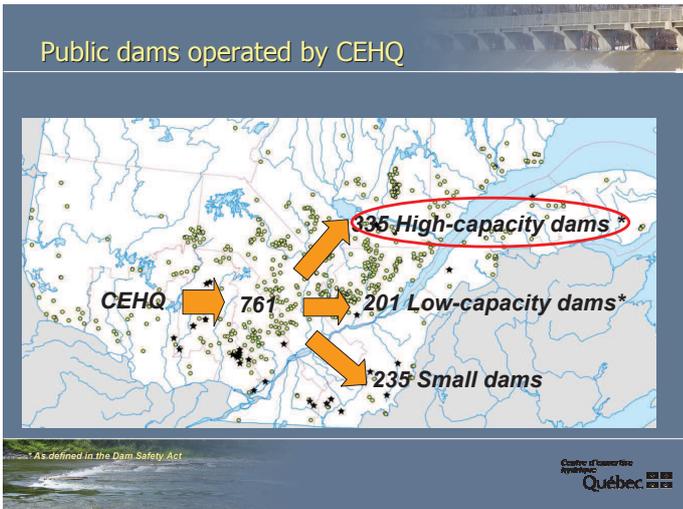
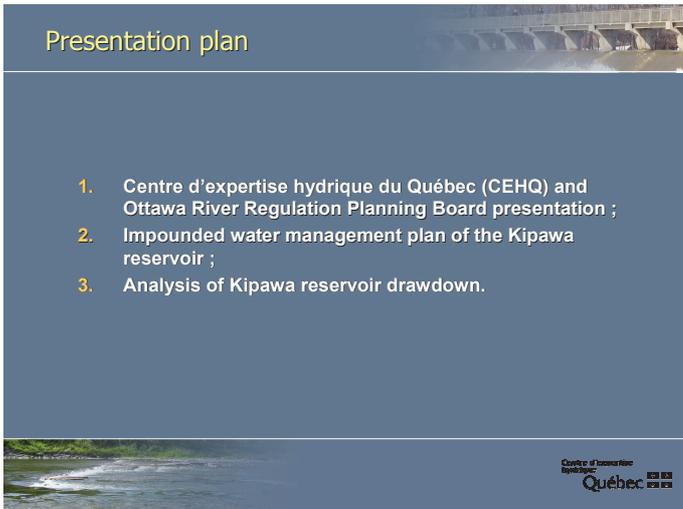
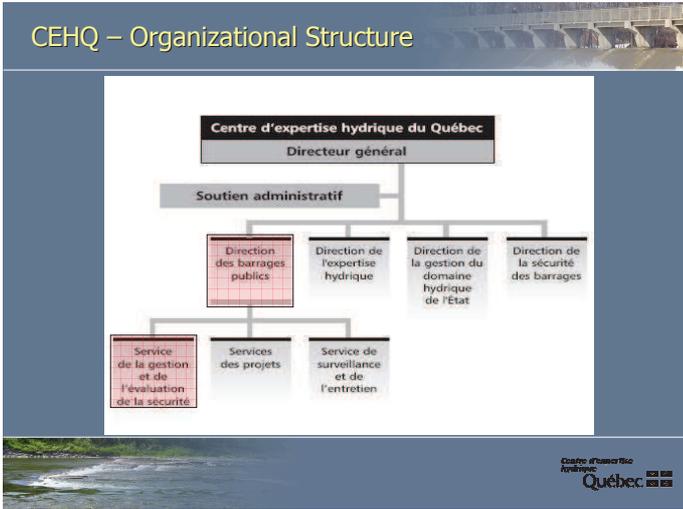
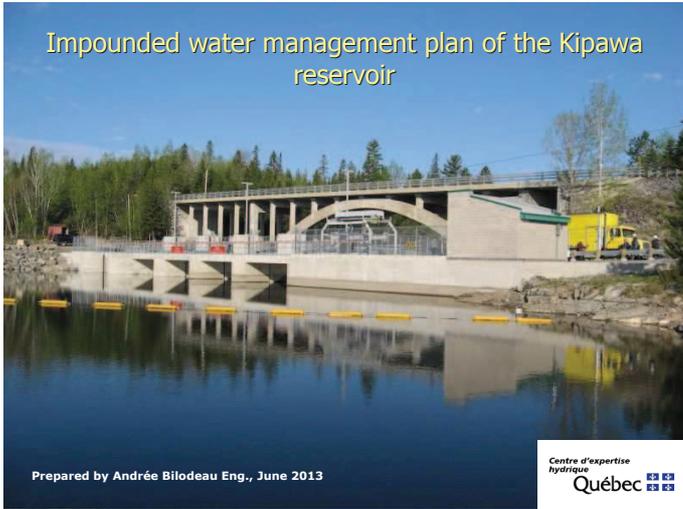
Main groups of ideas for development	Modalities
❖ Limited and controlled development	environment's quality
	Manage economic spinoffs with a welcoming attitude towards people and not by developing constructions
	Control access to hunting and fishing and develop in collaboration with First Nations
❖ To be developed for boating	Washing and pumping/emptying stations
	Other islands developed to accommodate boaters and canoeists
❖ Other type of development	Hotels, restaurants, canoe and kayak rental
	Commercial sector
❖ Positive impact on the Témiscamingue economy that needs it	
❖ Legislation: toughen up the laws on septic tanks and other effective legislations at Lake Kipawa	
❖ Ensuring compliance of illegal housing units	

Problems to be resolved before developing

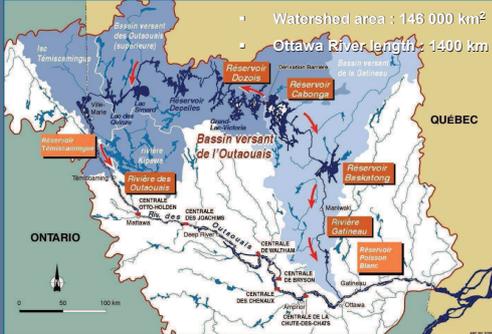
At the public consultation meeting and then through the survey, 4 important problems were identified and must be resolved before proceeding with development.

- Stabilise water level before any further development
- Be informed on tax rate changes, risk of seeing residents' tax increase if new infrastructures are built (roads, power lines, etc.)
- Document the current situation and find solutions to current problems before considering new developments
- Implement control measures and regulate sewers and pollution.

Appendix 2: Presentation on the management of water impounded in the Kipawa reservoir



Ottawa River



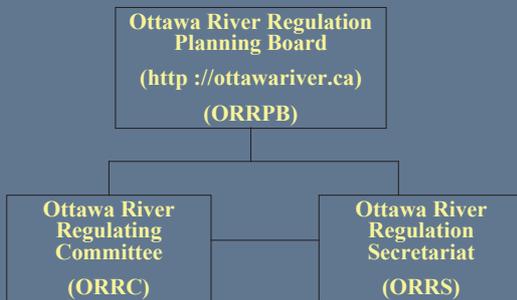
Ottawa River



Ottawa River Regulating Committee

- Integrated management of major reservoirs in the watershed of the Ottawa River ;
- Short-term and mid-term forecasts of flows and water levels ;
- Conference calls during critical periods to discuss operational strategies.

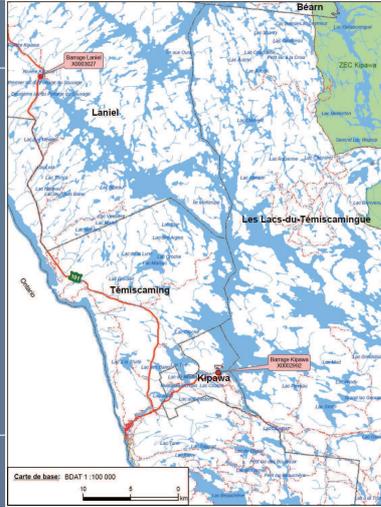
Ottawa River



Reservoir Kipawa management



- Two dams on the lake outlets ;
- Water level is controled using the Laniel dam ;



Operational constraints

Overflow level :	270,25 m
Maximum operation level :	269,75 m
Summer opération level :	Between 269,50 m and 269,55 m
Minimum summer operation level :	269,50 m
Drawdown target :	Around 267,60 m
Minimum flow in Kipawa River :	15 m ³ /s
Minimum flow in Gordon Creek :	10 m ³ /s
Minor flooding threshold on Kipawa River :	300 m ³ /s
Minor flooding threshold on Gordon Creek :	28 m ³ /s



Operational constraints

Drawdown on reservoirs managed by CEHQ. The Kipawa reservoir has the lowest.

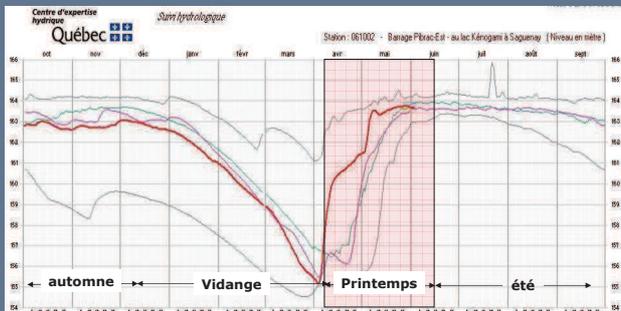
Des Quinze	2,5 à 2,6 m
Mitichinamécus	3,8 m
Kiamika	3,5 m
Rapide-des-Cèdres	7 m
Kipawa	1,9 à 2 m

Operational constraints

Filling during spring freshet

- Flood management ;
- Reach the target level for the summer ;
- Daily inflow forecasting based on weather forecast ;

Operational constraints



Operational constraints

Freshet 2013

- The maximum daily inflow to the reservoir was 500 m³/s and corresponds to an centennale flow ;
- During the peak freshet, the discharge from Laniel dam was limited to 200 m³/s to reduce downstream flooding and given the very high level in Lake Timiskaming ;
- The maximum discharge from Kipawa reservoir was 310 m³/s and it is the highest flow discharged for the past 15 years ;
- From mid-April to early June, the Ottawa River Regulating Committee held daily conference calls for the analysis of hydrological forecasts and operational strategies.



Analysis of Kipawa reservoir drawdown

- Request of the Ministère des ressources naturelles (MRN) ;
- Analysis ;
- Future actions ;



Analysis drawdown Kipawa reservoir

- **Drawdown water level of 50 cm**
 - ✓ During periods of low and average flow, the Kipawa reservoir couldn't be refilled to 269,50 m before winter ;
 - ✓ During periods of high flow, the discharge from Kipawa reservoir could reach 110 m³/s to achieve the target water level ;
- **Drawdown of 30 cm**
 - ✓ During periods of low flow, the Kipawa reservoir couldn't be raised to 269,50 m before winter ;
 - ✓ During periods of high flow, the discharge from Kipawa reservoir could reach 85 m³/s to achieve the target water level ;
- **For all drawdown scenarios**
 - ✓ Loss of hydropower generation;



Analysis drawdown Kipawa reservoir

MRN request : Drawdown of 1,9 m to 2 m Kipawa reservoir during the month of September

- Requires discharge higher than the flooding threshold evacuations downstream to achieve the target drawdown ;
- Impossibility to refill the reservoir before winter ;
- Alternative drawdowns were analyzed by the CEHQ and the ORRC.



Analysis drawdown Kipawa reservoir

- **Drawdown test**
 - ✓ Drawdown of 30 to 40 cm the Kipawa reservoir from September 1st to October 1st;
 - ✓ Maintain the water level low between October 1st and October 20th;
- **Future actions**
 - ✓ Inform residents in advance ;
 - ✓ Evaluate the effectiveness of this measure ;



OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

KIPAWA RESERVOIR

LANIEL (X0003027) AND KIPAWA (X0002992) DAMS

Level	Data	Comments
Drawdown target :	267,60 m	Drawdown level reached an average before the start of the freshet.
Minimum summer operation level :	269,50 m	
Summer operation level :	Between 269,50 m and 269,55 m	
Maximum operation level :	269,75 m	Maximum water level target during freshet.
Discharge – Kipawa River	Data	Comments
Minimum discharge :	15 m ³ /s	Aquatic habitat constraint.
Minor flooding threshold :	300 m ³ /s	At this flow, a field and a garage belonging to a local resident are affected.
Discharge – Gordon Creek	Data	Comments
Minimum discharge :	10 m ³ /s	The gates of the Kipawa dam are left at a constant opening to provide this flow.
Minor flooding threshold :	28 m ³ /s	Minor flooding threshold in the municipality of Kipawa.

Management information

GENERAL

- The Kipawa reservoir management objectives are to provide protection against flooding, maintain water level for recreation and regulate water for hydro-electric energy production.
- The Kipawa reservoir is one of the main reservoirs of the Ottawa River Basin and is the subject of integrated management by the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board (<http://rivieredesoutaouais.ca>).
- The water levels of the Kipawa reservoir and flows of the Kipawa River and Gordon Creek are available on the CEHQ website <http://www.cehq.gouv.qc.ca>.



OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

KIPAWA RESERVOIR

LANIEL (X0003027) AND KIPAWA (X0002992) DAMS



Management information

WINTER

- During the winter, the reservoir is emptied gradually in anticipation of spring flooding. This drawdown ensures the safety of people upstream and downstream of the dam and also allows to regulate water for hydro-electric energy production.

SPRING

- In the spring, we gradually refill the reservoir to reach the level of 269,50 m for the start of summer season while minimizing downstream flooding.

SUMMER

- During the summer season we maintain the water level between 269,50 m and 269,55 m. During flood periods we aim to stabilize the water level between 269,50 m and 269,75 m.

FALL

- In the fall, the lake level may drop below 269.50 m which allows greater flexibility in the management of fall rain events. In early December, before the drawdown, the target level is around 269.50 m.

Appendix 4: Concerns of the groups represented on the Users Consultation Committee

Municipalities

❖ Béarn: Luc Lalonde

No answer yet

❖ Laniel: Yvon Gagnon

The president of Laniel's Municipal Committee, Mr Yvon Gagnon, speaking on behalf of his fellow citizens, summarised their concerns as follows:

Drawdown tests could allow reaching levels more consistent with the needs.

As for fishing, the new regulations proposed by the Department should be decided with the outfitters to maintain the interest of clients and other users. These regulations must be respected. The impact of net fishing must be better documented. Finally, logging should be monitored more rigorously.

Tourism development could be a good opportunity if it is controlled to avoid reaching too high a density (for example, number and capacity of outfitting facilities must not be excessively high).

Residential and vacationing development should be left to the municipalities' discretion. Harmonising regulations between municipalities for shoreline development and septic tanks must be part of the management plan.

❖ Kipawa: Norman Young

The mayor of Kipawa, Mr Norman Young, summarised the concerns of his fellow citizens as follows:

The health condition of Lake Kipawa is not presently at its best and yet, it's a real treasure. We need to make a good assessment of its current condition in order to plan for the future.

We need to look at Lake Kipawa as a rich asset to be preserved and not as an opportunity for revenues. It's important to promote tourism.

The future of the lake's users depends on its healthy condition; if it deteriorates, many sectors would suffer (municipalities, industries, Aboriginal communities, etc.). The choices we make at this time are crucial.

Consulting and providing advice to local residents is an important process to be developed by government authorities.

❖ Témiscaming: Philippe Barette

The mayor of Témiscaming, Mr Philippe Barette, summarised the concerns of his fellow citizens as follows:

The consensus to be reached is allowing development, desired by many, without adversely affecting the quality of one of the 10 most beautiful lakes in Québec. A loss of quality would result in a decrease in Lake Kipawa's monetary and environmental value. Development can't be

undertaken before developing a good knowledge of the territory and resolving existing problems.

It's important to ensure public awareness and education of all users on how to behave to preserve the resource.

Environmental and community sector

❖ Environmental association: Association pour l'avenir des ressources témiscamiennes, Johanne Descoteaux

The environmental sector, supported by Johanne Descoteaux, is of the opinion that it's not possible to take a position now on the relevancy of any type of development. It's preferable to document the existing problems and identify the unknown factors. Determining what type of development would be possible would allow providing a more informed opinion.

We absolutely need to avoid a form of development that would result in a loss of Lake Kipawa's many qualities. Knowing that there are already existing problems, it seems difficult to consider more development. The precautionary principle is a must if we want to be able to develop our resources without threatening them.

❖ Shoreline owners association: Henri Laforest

As the shoreline owners associations' representative, Henri Laforest shared many of his group's concerns:

The price of land has skyrocketed in the past decades, which leads to the repurchase of property by people from outside the region.

Development must not be detrimental to the lake's quality and must be well organised.

Compliance with regulations must be monitored by municipalities.

❖ Users association: vacationers and Témiscaming-Kipawa Chamber of Commerce: Daniel Goulet

After having consulted his nautical recreation company's clients, many of Lake Kipawa boaters and residents, Daniel Goulet presented the following concerns:

The implementation of riparian buffer strips and the preservation of the landscape (against deforestation for example) are essential.

According to this group, when we talk about development, we can't just say yes or no:

Yes to the development of marinas equipped with pumping stations, public beaches with wharfs and washrooms, stopovers all around the lake with minimum camping services (washrooms, etc.)

No to the development of new residences for the time being (if such development in the future, make sure to have strict standards). Before initiating new real estate projects, make sure that current residents respect certain criteria: septic fields, shoreline buffer strips, maximum of two wharfs per property so as not to disfigure the landscape.

No to the mining project that does not reflect the idea of preserving water quality.

For the Témiscaming-Kipawa Chamber of Commerce, also represented by Daniel Goulet, development that could have beneficial impacts on the economy is desirable. Mining and other development projects are acceptable only if they are nature and environment friendly. Comprehensive studies must be completed prior to each project.

❖ **Fédération des Chasseurs-pêcheurs: Gino Lafrenière**

No answer yet

❖ **Citizens:**

- **Claude Bérubé**

As a citizen and frequent user of Lake Kipawa, Claude Bérubé agreed with many concerns already expressed.

The priority to focus on is water quality.

Actions and projects must be well prioritised to avoid being overwhelmed.

- **André Lapierre**

As a citizen, André Lapierre said that the important thing is to preserve the quality of the water, which is threatened by human and industrial activities.

Obsolete septic tanks and the use of two-stroke motor vehicles are threats to water quality while there should be no industrial activity at all near the lake.

It would be important to improve the current situation and control it before going ahead with new developments (which must be sustainable, if this is the case).

- **Clyde Mongrain**

As a citizen and member of the Aboriginal community of Eagle Village, Clyde Mongrain believes that the massive arrival of residents from outside the territory and the province is a problem, particularly when they don't want to follow the rules in place. Causing problems and then leaving cannot be excused without financial penalties.

He described many cases where existing rules were bent. The rules must be better enforced to limit abuse (fishing beyond quotas, tree cutting for private use, etc.).

He mentioned that there is a difference between Aboriginal and non Aboriginal people which is still not recognised.

- **Thomas Mongrain**

As a resident of Kipawa, Thomas Mongrain is mainly concerned by the fish resource: fishing by individuals and First Nations is not the main problem (the latter fish mostly walleye and pike, and lake trout to a lesser degree); it's the outfitters who threaten the fish populations the most.

There is a real problem of relations between First Nations and non Natives.

Concerning the potential development, the Department of Natural Resources can oppose development carried out in the wrong places. If there is development, tourism and camping grounds are desirable, but no new cottages.

- **Karen Kowalchuk & Stephen Kilburn**

As owners and users of the lake, Karen Kowalchuk and Stephen Kilburn greatly appreciate Lake Kipawa's preserved biological quality and quietness.

Everything that could have an impact on the existing qualities and characteristics is a concern for them.

There is a need to have more knowledge in order to make good decisions on what can possibly be done for the lake; existing standards must also be respected. Public education and awareness are of prime importance.

Economic sector

❖ **Outfitters (economic and tourism sector): Yves Bouthillette**

After having consulted many outfitters on Lake Kipawa, but also clients, Mr Bouthillette summarised the economic sector's opinion as follows:

We must not proceed with development before current problems are resolved, and they are many. One example is the impossibility for outfitters to purchase the lots where their facilities are located while they sell to non residents.

Wildlife remains the priority as well as the natural environment on and around the lake.

Fight against water, visual and noise pollution.

If there is development, it should be done by consolidating the existing tourism infrastructures before anything else (including the outfitting facilities).

Development must be done with a guarantee of sustainable and environmentally friendly development.

It is high time to set up a group (committee or association), dedicated particularly to Lake Kipawa, that could be the preferred interlocutor with specialists, among others.

❖ **Tourism: Simon Laquerre-Dany Gareau**

From a tourism perspective, Lake Kipawa is an underdeveloped treasure that is one of the 10 most beautiful lakes in Québec. It must be protected from pollution (gas, non-compliant residential septic tanks, etc.), overfishing, negative impacts of drawdown and industrial development, to name a few.

Development is possible, but based on recreation and tourism (companies and the future Opémican Park represent a good support rather than starting new projects). It should be centralised under an official entity (Community Wildlife Area, for example). Allowing the largest number of people (local and visitors) to discover Témiscamingue and the Lake Kipawa area would promote a better knowledge and, consequently, its conservation. Concerted management is desirable as well as the development of adventure tourism.

❖ Industrial sector: Claude Brisson

Matamec Explorations wished to summarise its involvement in two main points:

For the time being, Matamec is proposing a mining project that won't go into production before 18 to 24 months, which allows the public to clearly understand the project and to conduct a complete environmental assessment.

Matamec will try to limit the project's impacts as much as possible and, in return, the positive effects could be many: for example, studies on the knowledge of the territory that will be made available, funds available for the rehabilitation of obsolete septic facilities or houseboat pumping stations. The economic benefits for the MRC in the form of property tax could immediately benefit the region.

❖ Témis-accord Chamber of Commerce: Robin Larochelle

The region's development is important, but must not result in wasting resources.

The mining project is a concern, but if it goes ahead, it must respect the environment and allow investing funds for the lake's protection.

Existing septic facilities must be made to comply with regulations and the new ones should be strictly monitored.

Real estate development must benefit the residents and not people from outside the province.

Aboriginal communities

Without having taken part in the process, the Aboriginal communities of Eagle Village and Wolf Lake have expressed a number of concerns:

- The main fear is to see the resource threatened by overdevelopment
- They were not consulted as they should have been on the Opémican National Park (Press release of March 25, 2013)
- The rare earths mining project will significantly affect their territory (as stated in the Statement of Assertion of Aboriginal Rights and Title in a letter sent to the federal Minister of the Environment, Peter Kent: Chief Harry Saint-Denis, Chief Madeleine Paul, 2013). In this letter, they say that the mine would not allow achieving their objective of protecting the land, the water and the environment for present and future generations.