



DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS



Final Report on the “CABiN Stream Assessment Training Course” hosted by the Ka’a’gee Tu First Nation.

August 23 to 27, 2010

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Summary:

The Dehcho First Nations, Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Oceans Management (AAROM) program organized a stream assessment program to train its seasonal aquatic monitors in the CABiN protocol developed by Environment Canada as a nationwide program. The Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation hosted the course in their community. The monitors and others interested in learning the technique travelled from the various Dehcho communities to take in a week of standard CABiN protocol instruction provided by four instructors from Environment Canada.

The training was provided in order to give the Dehcho communities some capacity in participating in CABiN stream assessments in their community areas. This method of stream assessment will allow for a better understanding of the current ecological health of tributary streams and with time, of the cumulative effects of development and contamination in the watershed.

The course was very successful with all eleven community students earning their certification in the Introduction and Field Sampling modules. In addition, two students from our AAROM staff (including myself), were certified as well as an instructor from Aurora College. Those who want to continue on to further certification levels can take the remaining three modules on-line.

The AAROM program will be adding the CABiN protocol to their monitoring tool box. Environment Canada is willing to continue working with the Dehcho on future projects with the addition of new funding partners.

Introduction:

The Aboriginal Aquatic Resources and Ocean Management (AAROM) program is a Capacity Building and Collaborative Mgmt. program funded by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and administered by the Dehcho First Nations. One of our objectives under AAROM is to develop a community-based research and monitoring program with the full involvement of the First Nations and Métis organizations in the Dehcho.

With the objective of providing stream ecological health assessment training, the Dehcho First Nations AAROM organized the CABiN training course and the Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation successfully hosted the event at Kakisa in August, 2010.

One of the tools we will now include in our monitoring program is the Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABiN) protocol which may be useful in the assessing the relative ecological health of suitable tributary streams in our portion of the Mackenzie River watershed. The valued component of this training exercise was "Water and Sediment Quality".

This project classified as "Capacity Building and Training" had the following objectives;

- To train and provide certification for our community monitors in the CABiN protocol so that they have an understanding of how and why the protocol is conducted and will be prepared to participate in future CABiN assessments in their community area.
- To continue training Dehcho technical staff and an Aurora College instructor to supervise CABiN projects and/or provide future training.
- To foster stewardship in the aquatic environment especially for youth but also in our community monitors.

Methods:

The CABiN course was instructed by Environment Canada instructors Nancy Glozier, Sarah Hall, Kerry Pippy and Annie Levsseur. There was adequate classroom time to explain the CABiN program and protocol but there was an emphasis on hands-on field training. Each day, following classroom work, the students practiced the CABiN techniques in various small streams in the Kakisa area. All participants completed an oral test and a critique of their field technique.

TK was not a part of this training program other than discussing other stream candidates in the community areas.

The Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation and the community of Kakisa was fully involved in the program; providing accommodations, meals and organization. We were all made to feel at home and enjoyed the quiet of small community life on the banks of the Kakisa River.

Results:

All students of the CABiN training course passed the course and will receive certification for Module I; Introduction to CABiN and Module II; Field Sampling using standard CABiN protocol. Participants may take the other three CABiN protocol modules online if they are intending to supervise future projects or progress towards their instructor status.

Community participants:

1. Fred Simba; Ka'a'gee Tu; AAROM environmental monitor
2. George Simba; Ka'a'gee Tu
3. Wayne Sabourin; Deh Gah Gotie; AAROM environmental monitor
4. Robert Squirrel; Deh Gah Gotie; AAROM environmental monitor
5. Angus Sanguetz; Jean Marie River; AAROM environmental monitor
6. Melvin Sake; Jean Marie River
7. Edward Cholo; Liidlii Ku; AAROM environmental monitor
8. Earl Moses; Pehdzeh Ki; AAROM environmental monitor
9. Stacy Marcellais; Nahanni Butte; AAROM environmental monitor
10. Robert Martel; Katlodeeche; Youth
11. Talitha Buggins; Katlodeeche; Youth

AAROM and Aurora personnel:

12. Mike Low; Hay River; Dehcho First Nations; Technical Advisor

13. George Low; Hay River; DFN; AAROM Coordinator
14. John Blais; Fort Smith; Aurora College Instructor

Although an actual stream assessment was not a firm objective of the CABiN training project, the four EC instructors stayed an extra day to conduct an actual assessment of Axehandle Creek, where reconstruction of the highway crossing had disturbed a section of stream bed. It will be interesting to see the results later this winter.

Discussion/ Conclusions:

I think the CABiN course was a great success. The instruction was excellent and the interest of the students showed their dedication to monitoring the environment. The CABiN protocol will be very useful in assessing baseline health of streams in the Dehcho especially in advance of oil and gas and mining development should these occur. Dehcho streams for the large part are suited to the technique although accessing remote upstream reaches will be a problem.

The CABiN protocol is well suited to measuring cumulative impacts if conducted on an affected stream at regular intervals as development occurs upstream.

We plan to continue with the CABiN program next season probably in the northwestern part of the Dehcho Mackenzie area. We are also ready to assist the Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation if they choose to assess the Cameron River and other streams as a part of their Oil and gas cumulative affects monitoring project with INAC.

Environment Canada is willing to continue working with us as we find other partners and funding to carry out further projects.

Communications:

This report will be posted on the AAROM webpage of the Dehcho First Nations website.
www.dehcho.org

We will also discussing the CABiN program with our member First Nations this winter when we hold strategy meetings in each of the communities this winter; “Developing a Community-based Aquatic Research and Monitoring Plan”

Acknowledgements:

The Dehcho AAROM Program would like to acknowledge and thank the following organizations:

- The Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation and the community of Kakisa for hosting the Course.
- The INAC – CIMP program for funding this training project
- Environment Canada for providing four instructors at their cost
- DFO for providing CABiN field equipment beyond our regular funding agreement
- Aurora College for supporting the training of John Blais as a future CABiN instructor
- The DFN administrative staff for their usual efficient travel and financial services

Table 1: Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

REVENUE		
Environment Canada		17 000.00
Fisheries and Oceans		5,000.00
AAROM		4,494.78
Aurora College		4,000.00
NWT CIMP		20,000.00
	Total Revenue	\$50,494.78
EXPENDITURES		
Project Activity	Total Project Cost	NWT CIMP Funding
Salary/Wages		
Training Allowances (4 students x \$100 per day x 3 days)		1,200.00
Travel (of students from the communities)		
Travel (EC Instructors)	4,000.00	
Travel (AAROM)	832.86	3,505.69
	611.92	
Aurora travel	1,000.00	
Office Space (Hall classroom)		750.00
Telecommunications	50.00	26.00
Student and Instructor meals at treasury board rates (Aug.23 x 19 dinners) + (3 days x 19 BLD) + (Aug. 27 x 19 Bfst & 10 lunch)	0.00	6,990.00
Motel Accommodations (4 units x 157.50 per night)	0.00	2520.00
Field Transportation (EC)	1,000.00	1,685.35
Field Instructor Wages	12,000.00	0.00
Aurora wages	3,000.00	
Field Equipment and Supplies (DFO)	5,000.00	322.96
Field Equipment (AAROM)	3,000.00	
	SUB Total Expenditures	\$17,000.00
Salary (5 days x 200.00 - Ka'a'gee Tu)		1,000.00
Salary (11 + 4 days x 300.00 - AAROM)	3,300.00	1,200.00
Salary (4 days x 200.00) DFN		800.00
Office Supplies	100.00	
	Total Administration	3000.00
(up to 15% of total CIMP funds, if itemized)		
	Total Expenditures	\$20,000.00
	SURPLUS (DEFICIT) OF NWT CIMP FUNDING	+\$0.00
	AMOUNT PAYABLE TO INAC	\$0.00