

Expedition Committee Work Update

The first Expedition Committee meeting was held on December 6, 2020 with 7 FOW members in attendance. Ken Babinchak, Mary Jean Blaisdell (Chair), Ian Curran, John Holmes, Dave McTeague, Bill Pyle and Victoria Steeves put their virtual heads together to begin the discussion of how to best work towards FOW supported expeditions into Wabakimi.

The group first discussed and established priorities for expeditions into Wabakimi. One priority was to promote trips to Crown lands around the provincial park and Wabakimi Guidebook Routes. Another priority was that all supported trips should keep in mind the goal of preservation of lands in and around Wabakimi. A third priority established was that our efforts should support our map products and efforts to improve upon those products.

The group then discussed a 3-level approach to FOW support of such expeditions. Level 1 would include Individual Reconnaissance trips which would be planned and executed by individuals. In this level, FOW support would include providing planning maps and Wabakimi project maps needed for the trip and, if needed, partner request access through FOW in exchange for minor portage maintenance and an FOW trip report about routes, portages/conditions, and campsites. Pictures would also be encouraged.

Level 2 would be the same as Level 1 but include more portage maintenance and FOW assistance may also include gear support such as canoes, packs or help with making shuttle/rental arrangements.

Level 3 would involve a much greater FOW involvement and would look similar to past Wabakimi Project trips where trips, leaders, schedules, flights and shuttles were arranged by FOW and food, work and safety equipment was provided.

The committee has discussed Level 1 more fully than the others at this point and will continue to address the levels and next steps in their next meeting on January 10, 2021.

[FOW members interested in participating should send a message to Info@wabakimi.org]