

Minutes
East Side First Nations Council Meeting
February 06, 2003
Canad Inn Polo Park – Winnipeg, Manitoba

Member Attendees:

Phil Fontaine	Chair
Dwayne Bushie	Bloodvein First Nation
Chief Bailey Colon	Bunibonibee Cree Nation
Jack Fiddler	Garden Hill First Nation
Chief Gilbert Andrews	God's Lake First Nation
Furlon Barker	Hollow Water First Nation
Rene Barker	Hollow Water First Nation
Nelson Keeper	Little Grand Rapids First Nation
Chief Roger Ross	Manto Sipi Cree Nation
Lawrence Harper	Red Sucker Lake First Nation
Joe Daniels	Sagkeeng First Nation
Billy Joe Flett	St Theresa Point First Nation
Wilfred McDougal	Wasagamack First Nation
Joe Kuhn	Grand Council Treaty #3

Secretariat:

Mike Waldram	Bill Anderson	Moses Okimaw	Barb Hobson
Karen McRobbie			

Others in Attendance:

Minister Steve Ashton		Jane Gray	Ron Missyabit
Blair McTavish	Gilbert Knott	Tom Napataypo	John Yellowback
Kevin Carlson	Doug Peterson	Caroline Bruyere	

Absent:

Berens River First Nation Rep
Little Black River First Nation Rep
Pauingassi First Nation Rep
Poplar River First Nation Rep

The meeting was brought to order by the Chair.

Opening Prayer was given by the Elder, Caroline Bruyere.

This was followed with a welcome and the chair gave a brief overview of the East Side plan and indicated this was the first meeting of the First Nation Council. He stated there must be a willingness and openness to make this process a success. Successful processes in the past have involved First Nations right at the beginning. He indicated he wants to make sure government is committed to First Nations. The chair introduced Minister Steve Ashton.

MINISTER ASHTON

Minister Steve Ashton welcomed the group and discussed the East Side planning initiative as historic, ambitious with an undertaking of this process. He gave a brief overview of what has taken place to date. He indicated, that government to government discussions need to take place. Government, communities and East Side people need to be involved. He discussed the issue of sustainability and how First Nations have followed it and have lived it for thousands of years.

He discussed the unique issues surrounding the East Side with the forests, roads, tourism and sustainability of resources as very important. The vision is unique and people needed to be reminded how unique this whole process is. Government recognizes First Nation rights and stated today we are making history.

An introduction of the attendees was made and then followed with questions.

There was concern expressed about meetings with Pine Falls and First Nation Limited Partnership may be planning without including the First Nation Council in the process. People affected in the area should be an integral part of this initiative.

Minister Ashton replied, there will be ongoing discussions with everyone involved in the process. East Side process critical factor in what will happen in planning for Manitoba.

A member stated that it is important not to forget any groups because it can cause difficulties and hold the process back.

The minister was asked if he saw this process as a partnership. The minister responded that government takes partnership with Aboriginals very seriously and is aware of the aspirations that are represented here today.

Discussion about the concern of the environment, burial grounds, hunting, fishing, trap line areas, and how they could be affected by this process. Consultation needs to be in place to ensure that there is no loss of language, livelihood and culture. Minister Ashton reiterated the importance of partnership and agreed with the comments made.

More concerns were voiced about partnerships and the province needs to involve First Nations and consultation has to take place. God's Lake was polluted with mine debris from WWII and needs cleaning up but is falling on deaf years and how does the minister propose on cleaning it up.

The minister replied that he is here to listen to concerns, understands the impacts and what has had happened in the past. He also stated that there are other companies involved and they need to listen and start to recognize when mistakes have been made.

The traditional hunting rights and trap lines were a concern to another member and requested a map of all new wildlife boundaries in her community.

Action Item: Request for map of new Wildlife boundaries on the East Side.

Question to the minister asking how much longer do the Garden Hill residents have to wait for a road to their community? Who's responsibility would it be because the province has asked them to go to the federal government for resources.

Another member added that First Nation people have to be involved right from the start, do not come to consult with a plan already in place.

The minister responded with the need to consult on all issues that could infringe and First Nations are being included from the beginning of this process. First nation would also be provided the opportunity for training. Lands and TLE an ongoing process. He discussed that there would be ongoing discussion with everyone involved. There is money and human resources being put into this initiative. Moses Okimaw has hired to assist in this process.

Mike Waldram gave a PowerPoint presentation on the overall process of East Side of Winnipeg Planning Initiative and what has been completed to date. Discussion and questions followed the presentation.

Action Item: PowerPoint presentation will be made available to the First Nation Council along with the meeting minutes.

One member commented that land use commitment is not mentioned in the presentation and Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) should also be included and discussed.

There was a question asked about the time frame for the plan to get the info out to all the communities involved. Mike responded with a time frame of March- September 2003.

There was some clarification requested from the statement "Purpose of the this process is to respect and acknowledge....."

There was discussion on what was needed from the council and the need for exchanging of information and to get the information out to their communities. They will need to give feed back on the Terms of Reference.

The issue was raised that only one elder was present and was there room to include other elders in this process. What is the role for elders on this council.

The chair replied that we currently have elder Peter Kinew, involved in this process and the Council could discuss this together.

There was a question raised about Manitoba Transportation's 20/20 Vision and how would it affect this process.

The 20/20 Vision is a provincial wide process and their process could tie into this process and it would be pointless to duplicate the effort to reach all the communities.

Action Item: Blair and Mike to invite Manitoba Transportation to present to the council.

A few questions asked about future meetings, will Phil chair all the meetings, how much is the budget and who does the coordinator report too?

The response was that Phil chairs all the East Side groups, the budget is being worked on and the coordinator reports to the chair and to the minister.

A Round Table member indicated that 20/20 Vision would be I his community and he would invite them to the next Round Table meeting.

Question arose about the Dillon Report and the analysis of the report written by Gail Whellen Enns, and how would that play into this process.

Action Item: Get a copy of the Dillon report and analysis for council members.

There was more discussion on the Terms of Reference and the statement of inherent rights should be included.

There was discussion on the organization chart and a comment that the First Nation should report directly to the Minister and not to the Round Table.

The chair explained the process and stated that Manitoba is made up of a diverse community and each group has to be equally represented in the whole process.

The chair provided the group with their options on the Terms of Reference, they could take the draft back to their communities for any changes/amendments and to be brought back to the next meeting.

The Secretariat's role was explained and then introduced with the possibility of hiring more staff for this process.

The chair gave his closing and stated that Moses would work on refining the Draft Terms of Reference for the next meeting.

The council members would need to put some thought into how the communities need to organize themselves to address each communities needs.

Closing Prayer given by Peter Kinew

The meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Information Distributed at Meeting:

Draft East Side First Nation Council Terms of Reference