

Minutes
East Side First Nations Council Meeting
March 17, 2003
Place Louis Riel – Winnipeg, Manitoba

Member Attendees:

Phil Fontaine	Chair
Hilda Flett	Berens River First Nation
Dwayne Bushie	Bloodvein First Nation
Chief Bailey Colon	Bunibonibee Cree Nation
Jack Fiddler	Garden Hill First Nation
Eugene Captain	God's Lake First Nation
Rene Barker	Hollow Water First Nation
Jonas Peebles	Little Black River First Nation
Russel Bushie (Alternate)	Little Grand Rapids First Nation
Chief Roger Ross	Manto Sipi Cree Nation
Ed Hudson	Poplar River First Nation
Lawrence Harper	Red Sucker Lake First Nation
Joe Daniels	Sagkeeng First Nation
Roy A. Mason	St. Theresa Point First Nation
Alex McDougal	Wasagamack First Nation
Joe Kuhn	Grand Council Treaty #3

Secretariat:

Mike Waldram Bill Anderson Moses Okimaw Barb Hobson

Others in Attendance:

Tom Nepataypo Doug Peterson Caroline Bruyere

Absent:

Albert Pascal – Pauingassi First Nation

The meeting was brought to order by the chair.

Opening prayer was given by Elder, Caroline Bruyere.

The chair welcomed the members and guest and gave an overview of previous meeting. He would provide an update of his meetings with Norm Branson, Minister Tim Sale during the course of the meeting.

Mike went over outstanding Action Items.

A question was raised about the letter distributed from Don Sullivan (Round Table Member). The chair responded that participants at the Round Table are not there to represent any organizations but are involved as individuals to offer their own expertise and experience. The chair discussed the roles of the three committees involved with the East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Initiative.

There was a question asked regarding the comments on Page 2, second last paragraph. Is there anything currently being done to clean up the pollution of mine debris in God's Lake? The chair responded that he considers this an action item that needs to be addressed.

There were no further comments and the minutes were adopted.

MEETING UPDATES

Mike gave an update of the Budget. The budget for the next fiscal year is \$400,000.00 – \$500,000.00. There has been a request for an increase of Secretariat members to include: one full time secretary, one full time information person, community support people and the Project Managers position will become a full time position. The remaining Secretariat members will continue with their present responsibilities. Additional staff has required the need to increase the budget to 1.2 million dollars. The revised budget has been presented to Norm Branson who will then present it to the Minister.

Question asked about the hiring of a GIS staff member. The GIS position has been filled and will be joining the East Side staff. The chair stated the positions would be filled including the Project Manager position on a full time basis.

There was further discussion regarding the budget and the Federal Governments contribution of \$50,000.00 times 2.

A question asked if the \$40,000.00 was for this fiscal year or next year. The project manager responded that the amount is for this fiscal year and the request of 1.2 million is for the next fiscal year.

Another question asked about why Manitoba Hydro is going ahead with community meetings when it was thought they were to wait until this process was completed.

There was further discussion regarding the two communities that received \$50,000.00 from the Federal Government. It may be helpful to know the 2 communities to assist other communities access funding dollars.

Action Item- The chair to find out which communities received the \$50,000.00 funding dollars.

Mike commented on the government departments that are involved in this process. Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Highways, Manitoba Conservation's Parks Branch and Forestry are involved in meetings to discuss this process so they are all aware of what is happening with East Side initiative.

Moses gave an update of the meeting he attended with Ministers Robinson and Ashton. The meeting was to discuss Consultation and Manitoba Hydro going ahead with their community meetings.

The chair gave an update of his meetings with Bob Brennan-Manitoba Hydro to discuss concerns with the approach they are presently taking. The Round Table is of the view that what they are doing is undermining this process. Minister Sales was present at this meeting and shared his concerns as they are pressed for time and may have to make alternate plans. Minister Sales will be attending the next Round Table meeting on March 18, 2003.

Question asked if there were any First Nation members represented on the Round Table. The chair provided the council members with a verbal list of all the First Nation Round Table members.

Moses reported that he attended a Manitoba Hydro meeting with Blair McTavish and Bill Anderson and they have agreed to include the East Side Planning Initiative in their community presentations. They are not prepared to allow East Side to piggyback on their community meetings.

There was discussion on Consultation and concerns of Manitoba Hydro holding community meetings and considering it consultation regardless of the lack of turnout from the community. Concerns were also expressed about the lack of cultural and traditional knowledge by the provincial government.

The chair responded that Aboriginal traditional values are not understood and it is the Round Tables responsibility to ensure that First Nations values and rights be represented.

There were further discussion about the consultation process and discussion about what will be available on the website.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference heading was changed to "East Side First Nations Council".

Question asked where the NRTA comes into play in the Terms of Reference and would it be beneficial or a hindrance to add it. After a brief discussion, it was added.

Questions asked about the Preamble and does it mean meaningful consultation. There was discussion about the process being meaningful and government being sincere.

Preamble changed as noted on the Terms of Reference (attached).

Terms of Reference #1 was changed as noted on the Terms of Reference attached.

Terms of Reference #2 changed as noted on attached Terms of Reference.

It was decided to add another section to include the NRTA in this section as it is not included in the original Terms of Reference.

Add First Nations to appropriate areas of the entire document.

Question about the term “could” as opposed to “will”. The wording will be changed to “will” in this section.

Terms of Reference #5 was approved.

Terms of Reference #6.

There was discussion about the First Nations Council being able to go directly to government to get information.

Terms of Reference #7.

Add First Nations Council to give some strength to the Council.

Terms of Reference #8 was approved.

Terms of Reference # 9.

Change Stakeholders Advisory Committee to East Side Advisory Committee.

Discussion about Water being added and it was decided to go back to the preamble and add inherent right to that section.

Terms of Reference #10

Changes to:

f) Phil to chair all three groups.

g) the word “support” was added

Section h) added to keep the Council strong and autonomous.

Expenses section was approved after a brief discussion on Elders and their expenses covered.

There was further discussion about the definition of an elder. The chair responded that, Peter Kinew has been directed to convene with Elders to determine their participation.

There was a question asked about the possibility of covering elder Caroline Bruyere’s expenses since she attends all the meetings.

Action Item: The chair to meet with Bill and Mike to discuss the issue of the East Side covering the expenses of Elder, Caroline Bruyere.

The acceptance of the Terms of Reference was moved by Joe Daniels and seconded by Chief Bailey Colon. The council adopted the Terms of Reference.

FIRST NATION PARTICIPATION IN EAST SIDE

Moses provided the members with Leanne Simpson’s report, “First Nation Participation in Large Area Land Use Planning on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg: Recommendations for a Meaningful Process” Leanne Simpson was invited to the meeting but was unavailable.

Discussion followed about community meetings going ahead along with what constitutes meaningful consultation. The chair reported that they met with the minister and discussed the unrealistic deadline of June 2004.

There was concern expressed about the seriousness and importance of this whole process and would hate to see the same outcome as the Framework Agreement Initiative (FAI).

Moses discussed the points from Issues for First Nation Participation in Large Area Land Use planning handout.

- 1. Recognition of aboriginal and treaty rights**
Inherent rights is included, all the treaties that are involved is included in the statement.
- 2. Role of First Nations and Elders**
This statement is fine.
- 3. Traditional Use Studies**
Question asked if bureaucrats will be at the meetings and the reply was yes there would be involvement from them.
- 4. Economic Development**
There have been different ones signed and they can be researched to see what has been done in the past.
- 5. Impacts from Developments**
There was discussion regarding the destruction of land.
- 6. Funding for Participation and Capacity Building**
Discussion regarding lack of planning & funding in the communities. Try to get funding for planning capacity and training community people.
- 7. Government to Government Relationship**
Discussion about First Nations having a direct link to the Minister. Question arose regarding First Nation representation on the Round Table. The chair read out all the First Nation members from the Round Table membership list that was handed out.
- 8. Consultation**
Discussion about Hunting Rights and concerns raised about the cost of having to take a course, can this be regarded as infringement.

Action Item: Moses to have a draft of this document within a couple of weeks.

Spelling error correction to be made on last paragraph heading on page 7 of, First Nations Participation in Large Area Land Use Planning on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg handout.

A question was asked if there was a broad area plan in place and why are Red Sucker Lake & some communities left out of the report? Discussion followed about having a broad area plan in place. It was suggested that the Council should make a list of the initiatives that are currently being undertaken by each community, tribal councils and bring it the council meetings for discussion. Make an inventory of First Nation's current & future plans.

An invitation was extended to all members to stay for the Round Table meeting that was being held the following day on March 18, 2003.

The chair adjourned the meeting and the next meeting to follow within a month.

Information Provided at Meeting:

1. Draft East Side First Nations Council Terms of Reference
2. First Nation Participation in Large Area Land Use Planning on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg: Recommendations for a Meaningful Process” – Leanne Simpson Report
3. Issues for Meaningful First Nation Participation in Large Area Land Use Planning Paper