

Minutes
East Side First Nations Council Meeting
May 08, 2003
Charter House Hotel – Winnipeg, Manitoba

Member Attendees:

Chair	Phil Fontaine
Bloodvein First Nation	Frank Young
Bunibonibee Cree Nation	Chief Bailey Colon
Garden Hill First Nation	Jack Fiddler
God's Lake Narrows First Nation	Chief Gilbert Andrews
Hollow Water First Nation	Chief Larry Barker -1/2 day Rene Barker
Little Black River First Nation	Jonas Peebles
Little Grand Rapids First Nation	Russell Bushie
Norway House Cree Nation	Jim Cromarty
Poplar River First Nation	Ed Hudson
Red Sucker Lake First Nation	Lawrence Harper
Sagkeeng First Nation	Joe Daniels
St. Theresa Point First Nation	Roy A. Mason

Regrets:

Berens River First Nation	Hilda Flett
Manto Sipi Cree Nation	Chief Roger Ross
Pauingassi First Nation	
Wasagamack First Nation	
Moses Okimaw	

Secretariat:

Mike Waldram	Bill Anderson	Barb Hobson
Dale Sobkowich		

Guests:

Caroline Bruyere	Tom Nepataypo	Doug Peterson
Wade Munroe	Myrna Bushie	Lianna Anderson

Elder Caroline gave the opening prayer. The chair called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

There was a change to the agenda as Moses Okimaw would not be attending the meeting. As a result, it was noted that all the items on the agenda would not be covered. Approval of the agenda was moved by Chief Bailey Colon and seconded by Joe Daniels. Agenda approved.

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There was a question raised about holding an in-camera session and a member suggested that the meeting continue with the agenda and decide later if there was a need for the session.

Mike Waldram covered the outstanding action items.

- Wade Munroe has been invited from Manitoba Hydro to present to the Council.
- \$50,000.00 awarded to 2 First Nation communities includes Hollow Water First Nation but not all the funding is directly for this process, there was comment that Southeast may have received funding but not specifically for this project.

It was asked if the elder who attends regularly on her own have her expenses covered? The chair responded that Peter Kinew has been directed to meet with the Elders to determine what role they will have in the process and a decision could be reached at this meeting. A discussion followed with comments on the role of elders and how they should be compensated.

There was also a comment about how slow the process was for members to receive expense cheques.

The members were in agreement to having an Advisory Committee member join the meeting and guests were welcome to attend meetings. The Council members could attend the Round Table meetings as observers.

The minutes should include the community information session and which Round Table members attended.

- Names have been submitted for the Project Managers position and the list has been short-listed.
- There was a comment regarding the Council's Term of Reference No.2. An elder reviewed the Terms of Reference and they commented that First Nations are not owners of Traditional Knowledge and are merely stewards.

The minutes were adopted.

MANITOBA HYDRO PRESENTATION

Wade Munroe was introduced and announced that Manitoba Hydro has stopped the community meetings for the next couple of months. Letters have been sent to all the communities regarding this announcement (see attached letter from Hydro that was carbon copied to Phil Fontaine).

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There was a question raised about Hydro's plans (capital projects) over the next 5 years.

- Next capital project is the Bi-pole 3 high voltage transmission line; but no plans for building until 2005-2006.
- There are no other power line projects planned at the present time.

There was a discussion regarding Hydro's talks with Ontario regarding a study in Conawapa. It was noted that the Chiefs are not familiar with the Bi-pole 3 project. The Council needs to know what Hydro's plans are to coincide with their plans.

A question asked if Hydro considers the information sessions as Consultation. They are considered information sessions but it is difficult to define when it becomes consultation.

Question posed as to who Wade Munroe reports back to regarding this meeting, Wade responded that he reports to his immediate supervisor but has contact with higher officials in their department.

A point was raised that a letter was written to Hydro requesting funding to bring the Chiefs together to discuss this process but the request was denied. There was a comment made that Hydro seems to be the only party that is aware of what is happening, one community is not aware of what another community may be doing.

A bi-pole 3 corridor would be 50 meters wide and there are 3 possible routes being discussed.

There had been an announcement that Manitoba Hydro was to be opening a training centre in Nelson House and it was asked if First Nations would have access to this facility? Wade was not able to answer this question but would take it back to his superiors for an answer.

Action Item: Wade Munroe to find out if members of First Nations will have access to the Nelson House training centre and get back to the First Nations Council members.

Further discussion followed regarding Hydro's plans and First Nations involvement with these plans.

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Does Hydro have a policy in place for past grievances and has Sagkeeng been approached regarding their grievances? Wade informed the members that hydro has a Mitigation Department that addresses past concerns and that he would let them know that issues concerning mitigation have been brought up again.

Action Item: Wade to take Sagkeeng's outstanding issues back to Hydro mitigation people to inform them that Sagkeeng's concerns need to be addressed.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND HOW TO PROCEED

- Who will be the first contact
- Format
- Information that should be made available before the community meeting
- Information will vary from community to community
- Some communities will require that Chief & Council members be present

There was discussion of the Hollow Water trial run and organization of the information session. The cost of the meeting was \$2,000.00 which included food and materials distributed. There is a need to have paid people as community contacts and to develop working groups but keeping the time frame in mind when planning for these meetings. A tentative schedule needs to be prepared with the possibility of scheduling more than one community over a two-day period. The chair raised the point that there would be adequate funding available for the needs of each community.

At Hollow Water, Moses Okimaw discussed community participation. Each community should provide the name of a community Coordinator to the Secretariat. A \$2,000.00 budget would be provided to each community with the community Coordinator being paid from that money.

In order to have community participation and a good turn out it may require people to knock on doors and talk directly to community members, putting up posters was not enough.

The plan for the community meetings will include:

- divide the Round Table members into a cross section of people in teams of 5;
- distribution of the video explaining what the initiative is in order to assist the teams with the presentations at the community meetings; and
- provide maps to the communities, ie: forest fires, forestry, etc.

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There was a comment about communities that cover larger areas with a large population and the possibility of holding more than one meeting to ensure everyone has the opportunity to attend. The chair responded that there are many ways to get the information out to ensure the community receives the information (newspaper, radio and television) and each large community will pose different challenges.

The Hollow Water process took 7 days from the beginning to the actual community meeting. Other communities will have the opportunity to present any plans they may have to Round Table members. Information packages will be put together to give to the contact person.

An issue was raised regarding off reserve members and the need to ensure all members from each community are provided with the information along with the opportunity to attend information sessions.

There was a comment shared in Ojibway that asked the members to keep in mind that the land is there for the people to share and not to own and to think about the land resources available and how they are being used. There is a need for people to remember this also includes all the plants, trees, animals and every living thing on the land.

The chair spoke to the comments and stated that it is important to remember these points and how unique this opportunity is as it has only been tried twice before in Canada.

The June, 2004 deadline to complete the process was discussed. It was conveyed to the Minister that that date might be unrealistic.

The question of the upcoming election was raised and will this process be halted should another party come into power. There has been support to this initiative from various government levels and industry so the plan is to carry on.

INAC RAN & RPP PROGRAMS PRESENTATION

Lianna Anderson, Economic Development Officer for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, gave a presentation on the RAN & RPP Programs, covering how to access funding through these programs and discussing eligibility requirements. The funding dollars were covered with the maximum for any funded project \$200,00.00.

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There was a question and discussion period. Many questions were asked about funding for traditional area inventory and mapping projects, as well as what kinds of projects had been funded to-date.

MANITOBA WATER STRATEGY BOOKLET

Doug Peterson distributed the booklet and described the project as an ongoing process that will be coordinated through the East Side Planning Initiative.

Action Item: Invite Lori Thompson - Manitoba Conservation to do a presentation on the Manitoba Water Strategy for the Council.

The Chair was asked what would happen with the East Side Planning Initiative should he run and be elected as the National Chief for the Assembly of First Nations. He responded that this process would continue with help from all the committee members and the Secretariat.

Elder Caroline Bruyere gave the closing prayer and the chair adjourned the meeting.

INFORMATION HANDED OUT AT THE MEETING:

- Manitoba Water Strategy Booklet
- East Side Planning Initiative Community Participation Report
- Hollow Water April 15, 2003 Community Meeting Questions
- East Side First Nations Council Terms of Reference
- Resource Partnerships Program (RRP) Guidelines
- Resource Access Negotiation (RAN) Program Guidelines – April 1, 2003 Draft