

Minutes
Lake Winnipeg East Side Roundtable Meeting
July 30, 31 2002
Wilderness Edge Retreat – Pinawa, Manitoba

Day 1 – July 30, 2002

Member Attendees:

Phil Fontaine - Chair	Ed Schreyer	Cherry White	Ken Ellison
Ed Huebert	Peter Miller	Helgi Einarsson	Al Benoit
Sherry Dangerfield	Don Sullivan	Don Courchene	Gilbert Knott
Peter Kinew	Dr. David Punter	Chief Vera Mitchell	Wesley Harper
Tom Nepetaypo	Mike Martel		

Secretariat Attendees:

Joann Hebert	Mike Waldram	Paulette Delaquis
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Regrets:

Jim Ticknor	Chief Nancy Whiteway	Paul Chief	Dan McNaughton
Bill Anderson			

Others in Attendance:

Blair McTavish	Bill Barto	Janet Fontaine	Roger Schroeder
Kristin Bingeman	Shirley Nichols	Sandra Batenchuk	

Alex Peters - Pikangikum Ontario
David Owen - Pauingassi, Manitoba
Moses Owen - Pauingassi, Manitoba
Ed Hudson - Poplar River, Manitoba
Ray Rablouskas - Poplar River, Manitoba
Harold Crow - Little Grand Rapids, Manitoba
Jermiah Bushie - Little Grand Rapids, Manitoba
John Berens - Berens River First Nation

The meeting was brought to order by the Chair.

Opening Prayer was given by the Elder, Peter Kinew.

This was followed with a welcome and introduction, by the chair of others in attendance.

A change/addition to the Agenda was put forth by the Chair. A presentation on Northern Development by Janet Fontaine would be given after the previous meeting minutes were adopted.

It was also stated that other guests from Pikangikum, Ontario as well as representatives from Pauingassi, Poplar River, Berens River and Little Grand Rapids would be joining the meeting and presenting on **Protected Areas Issues and Opportunities** to the Roundtable members later in the day.

There was no further discussion on the agenda and it was moved to adopt the two day agenda for this meeting. Agenda was adopted by the members.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the June 27 and 28 meeting were put to the table for acceptance. No changes were reported prior to the meeting and none were noted at this time.

**Move to accept the minutes by Dave Punter and 2nd by Ed Huebert - June 27, 28
Minutes accepted.**

Mention was made that the final minutes from some previous meetings were now available on the website.

It was noted by the chair that in future, the only moving and seconding of a motion to be recorded, would be regarding the adoption of the minutes.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PRESENTATION - Janet Fontaine

A copy of this presentation was handed out to the membership prior to the presentation.

Some specific questions brought up from this presentation are as follows:

- 1) Who is providing the money for training of individuals regarding the Hydro projects?
- 2) Are there currently cost sharing partnerships with first nations and Manitoba and Federal Governments?
- 3) Are there resource sharing agreements in place with the provincial government?

There was much discussion regarding training of First Nation people.

Concern was mentioned about the training that is introduced to the First Nation people living in the communities that are affected. It is felt the idea behind training is that the people will be employable after the training. Mention was made that most times when the training is done – the training is not recognized in future projects so people are trained over and over again. It was also noted that most provincial programs exclude First

Nation communities and are directed to Metis and northern communities covered by the Provincial Northern Affairs Act.

Members asked which communities are included in the Northern Community Development Strategy? The response to this is that in general the definition used is the communities North of the 53rd parallel are those included in the strategy.

Action – Have community profiles on all communities on the east side made available to members – this information can be acquired from Statistics Canada.

TERMS OF REFERENCE – Mike Waldram

Mike presented some changes which have been made to the Terms of Reference and went over same with the members. Action items arising from this were listed below.

Terms of Reference were adopted and a letter from the Chair is to be sent to the Minister outlining recommended changes to the Roundtable's Terms of Reference.

Action - have the full draft report of the Phase I discussions made available to each member of the Roundtable.

MANITOBA HYDRO PRESENTATION – Wade Munro & Dave Hicks

Mr. Munro gave an overview of the previous presentation by Manitoba Hydro which was given at the May 14 and 15th meeting of the Roundtable. He then proceeded to tell the membership what has now gone on between Manitoba Hydro and the communities with regards to future developments on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. He gave a presentation of what is being presented to the communities and also stated which communities they have met with at this time.

The presentation brought up much discussion regarding the cost of building BiPole III and the consumer benefits, or not, of such a line. Also there were questions as to what are the benefits to the communities of such a line going in on the east side. Some members questioned what has changed that would make Bipole III pass environmental assessment now when it did not pass before?

It was stated if Bipole III goes through, there would be an in service date of 2010.

There was mention made with regards to Hydro's consultation notes being shared with the Roundtable membership. Hydro felt this needs to be discussed with Chiefs and Mayors and councils prior to the sharing of these notes. It was suggested that at the end of the process, there will be a synopsis summary done up and that may be shared with the Roundtable at a later date. The timeline for the synopsis summary is likely within the next six months.

There was a request from Hydro to provide a map of the proposed location of the BiPole III. It was stated by Hydro that currently, no map is available but that TLE and Land Selection will have to be looked at thoroughly in the environmental assessment process.

There were some questions which could not be answered by this presenter and it was felt that the Roundtable should invite Ruth Christianson (the Research and Development and Supply Management Groups) to speak at another meeting as she might be better able to answer some of these.

PROTECTED AREAS ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES – PRESENTATION

This presentation was filmed by the presenters

Introductions were made by the presenters as well as introductions of others in attendance to the presenters.

Some presenters did not speak English; therefore a translator had been provided in order to accommodate both the Roundtable members who did not speak the language used for the presentation and the presenters who did not speak English.

Harold Crow & Jermiah Bushie – Little Grand Rapids

Harold gave a biography of himself. He spoke about how he was raised and how he learned to live off the land. Since there has been so much intrusion, there is a lot of environmental changes. There are many herbs, plants and medicine which they want to maintain. One of the most noticeable changes is the decrease of ducks and wildlife in his area. He stated it is his responsibility to look after the land. He stated he is happy to be here and glad to have the opportunity to come to a better way of doing things together. He feels there is a need to work with the elders to be able to keep the culture in the generations to come. Also feels a need to understand that we all need to walk together.

Moses Owen from Pauingassi

Mr. Owen is in total agreement with what was said by the others. Says he has trapped his whole life but things have changed. He has brought the elder, David Owen, from Pauingassi to be here. Glad to be here and says Meegwich.

David Owen the Elder then spoke – Translated – Mr. Owen wants to say a few words. He has been around for a long time and learned from his elders before him how to trap and the traditional ways. He wants to be able to pass on the traditions to the younger ones. Things were not easy in times before but even so they carried on and looked after their families. In days gone by there were no outsiders coming into the traditional territory. Now there have been outside people coming in and taking over some of his traplines or the lines have been vandalized over time. There is always outside interference which bothers him. They always want to push us out of our own traditional

territory. First Nations had an agreement with the Crown which said that their way of living would not change but it has and he would now like to maintain his way of life, his beliefs, values and his understanding. Thank you for allowing him to speak.

Ed Hudson - Poplar River – spoke about the river which is now the home of Thunderbird Lodge. Mr. Hudson also spoke about how their traplines had been destroyed by people coming to the lodge. He stated a “No Trespassing” sign had been posted by Natural Resources for the Lodge people. He stated that in the past he has had concerns about Americans sneaking in on their traditional areas – proposed to the government that 5 miles on each side of Poplar River as a protected area. He also spoke about the meeting for the road with the paper mill. The people would like to keep their space as it is – the people would like to be able to continue to live off the land – fish, trap, etc. Thank you.

Ray Rablouskas – Poplar River - There has been a decision made to not let people just come into the space and take over. Pauingassi, Little Grand Rapids and Poplar River have all submitted protected plans. The process has been long and arduous. They hope to make a model out of their work. He spoke of archaeological sites mentioning that some finds are over 2000 years old. Questions why do the people of the land have to keep telling people over and over again that they have control over that land. This is their life and their history. It is hard for them to hear others tell them what to do with their land. Many initiatives are taking place in the Poplar River area, mapping wetlands, etc., plant studies, etc. There is a camp for the young people to teach the children about the traditions as well as a healing camp in the bush. Much traditional knowledge is imparted to the children about their culture and traditions.

Alex Peters representing Pikangikum – Mr. Peters spoke in both languages. Mr. Peters gave thanks to Chief Mitchell for the invitation to this meeting. Mr. Peters stated his lands are north of Red Lake in Ontario. Currently there is a White Feather Forest Initiative project going on in his area. This is year 3 of the White Feather Forest Initiative Project. The first year was land use planning, the 2nd year forest inventory and the 3rd year indigenous knowledge. By next year they hope to have a sustainable forestry license. He stated they have told industry to back off until the study is finished. He said they have told them this is their land. They have been here for a long time and will be for a long time to come. Mr. Peters is now working with the people from the Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi and Poplar River areas because they border his land. He stated that the Creator’s laws are important and that he guides the decision of the land - No one else.

Mr. Peters also had some maps to share with the membership.

ACTION – Mr. Peters says he will produce these maps in smaller version to be sent out to membership. Chief Vera Mitchell will receive these maps and pass them on to the Roundtable members.

ACTION - A copy of the Pikangikum Accord was left with the Secretariat for distribution to Roundtable

Mr. Peters was asked if they are open to have other First Nations in their alliance to which he replied – yes this is open to anyone.

Peter Kinew made a gift of tobacco to the presenters and thanked them for their presentation.

The Chair also thanked the people for coming and presenting to the Roundtable.

Adjournment:

Mr. Fontaine noted he was unable to be at the next day's session and indicated the Honourable Mr. Ed Schreyer would chair the meeting in his absence.

DAY 2 – July 31, 2002

The meeting was called to order by the Chair.

The Chair noted that the day's agenda has some changes. The last item from Day 1 would be the first thing on the day's agenda. He also noted that two presentations on the agenda for Day 2 have to be deferred to another time. These two presentations are as follows:

Bill 19 - Mines and Minerals Act Amendment - Tom Nepetaypo, Ernie Armitt, and Wildlife Management and Issues - Doug Schindler

UPDATES - STATUS OF LETTERS OF APPOINTMENT, STATUS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL COSTS FOR MEMBERS - Blair McTavish

It was stated that the Letters of Appointment have all gone out to the members. Roundtable members were given the letter sent to First Nations requesting representatives to the First Nation East Side Council. Roundtable members asked to receive the letter sent to organizations respecting membership for the Advisory Committee.

It was noted Manitoba Conservation is working on getting the payment of expense claims sorted out. It was felt that cheques should be in the mail by the end of the week (Aug 2, 2002).

GIS DATABASE DEMONSTRATION - Joann Hebert

A demonstration of the database information and capabilities was given by Joann Hebert.

There was a lot of discussion around the ability of communities to map their surrounding traditional territory.

Some **action items** arising from the demonstration are as follows:

- Information gaps need to be set up as an agenda item
- Joann to try to get wild rice lakes maps - not just large licence blocked areas map
- Request to have the information on rules regarding wild rice leases, harvesting and production, be made available to members
- On future maps, have the 53rd parallel marked off for future reference
- To provide information on forest fire fighting priorities and fire maps

REPORT ON SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSULTATION OPTIONS - Mike Waldram

Summation was given by Mike Waldram.

He stated that the handout is still being reworked – there have been changes sent in by Peter Miller.

Major point of discussion today is the Leadership Consultation Approach.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

- Have a roundtable of leaders from the communities – this is something that has been spoken about in some of the communities. If this were to happen – where would the resources come from? Should have some of the people come in to the meeting to make presentations.
- Leadership might be unaware of First Nation Council that is being set up.
- Need to invite people to the next meeting to see how they can become involved in this process. This process has to be introduced into the communities – not just brought in and told what will happen. Process can not be completed before it gets to the people. It is always done from the top down not from the bottom up.
- Another option of the discussions which took place at the subcommittee meeting was put forth to the table.
- No substitute for people going into the community
- Discussion with regard to grassroots issues. Reason for the workshop suggested in the report presented.
- Working groups in the communities are already set up and is comprised of approximately 6 people and have the ear of the Chief and Council. Presentations are done by these people in their own language and responses are prepared in their own language. Suggest we establish working groups in those communities that don't have. Most have an elder, single mother, people from the community, councillor.
- We have a number of different models to choose from – which do we want to use – this could be decided at the workshop held later. How do we vet the different models through to the people.
- It should be communicated through the band council office what is expected when the

dates are to be for the meetings in the community. Information sharing should be done prior to the visit to the community.

- Discussion re industry and how they would be dealt with – same as the other communities or differently.
- Should not the other two committees being set up have a major role to play in this consultation process? Roundtable should work with the First Nation Council and the Advisory Committee.
- Does this group carry out its work by going out to the communities or is it to work through the different committees and never go out to the community. Need to look back at the original Terms of Reference and see what was expected from the Roundtable in those Terms of Reference
- What is the role of the two other organizations – specified in the letter handed out by Blair McTavish which had been signed by Minister Oscar Lathlin.
- Introduce the process, tell the community how they will be represented by this Roundtable in the process. Let them know how it will work and what is taking place and how they will have input – through the subcommittee, come to make a presentation to the Roundtable. Meetings can be made as a large public meeting and make sure you bring food. Timing of meetings need to be looked at – pool times and communities

It was later agreed that a two day conference or a regional meeting with presentations by Wisconsin, NWT with open invitations at a regional level be held in Winnipeg with an open invitation to all communities. The goal would be to have the meeting for September 16, 17, 2002.

The consultation subcommittee was directed to prepare and implement a plan for developing the above noted conference/regional meeting.

FACT FINDING TOUR BC/ONTARIO

It was stated that the Chair would like this to happen with two groups – one group to BC and the other to Ontario. One group would be led by himself and the other would be led by the Honourable Mr. Schreyer

It was stated that the new initiative in Ontario is the Northern Boreal Initiative – Pikangikum is involved in this initiative. Focus when Roundtable members go to Ontario is to look into what is going on in the northern communities.

It was suggested the Secretariat would start to make up an itinerary of events, meeting, etc. Also, a list will be circulated to show preference of Ontario/BC and from that it would be decided how many people would go as well as where they would go(BC/Ontario) .

There were questions about whether it is necessary to have the entire Roundtable membership go out to those provinces. Some felt we should have some people come in

and speak to the membership as it was felt to be too much money for the prior rather than the latter.

The question arose that if this were to be done, would it preclude bringing someone here from the NWT to speak to the Roundtable.

It was suggested to have the Secretariat liaise with Ed Huebert about having the NWT people do a briefing to the Roundtable. Hopefully a September meeting of the Roundtable could coincide with the above noted Ministers' meeting.

The Elder spoke of overlapping jurisdictions (native and other). Suggested that maybe the Roundtable could learn from the agreement of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Public Relations Unit out of Bad River Wisconsin Ojibway .

Some felt the Roundtable should maintain its course and do our model the best way for this province and not based on the others models. We should use our own expertise – there are many in this province to assist us. Also it was felt that the money would be better spent on our own resources.

Some felt this fact finding should be postponed until after the Roundtable has heard from the communities.

Suggestion was made that the Roundtable doesn't just look at the Lands for Life process or just the BC process. It might be good to look at the Wisconsin model. Also look at the Turning Point agreement done on the coast of BC. This was a more comprehensive model – not just forestry. It was suggested by one member that Sandra Storm would be invited to make a presentation to this group. Ms. Storm was very involved in the BC process and now lives in Brandon, Manitoba.

There was strong support from the elder to have the Wisconsin people come do a presentation to the Roundtable.

It was stated that the Great Lakes people have already been invited to come to speak to the RT. Again mentioned that we try to coordinate the timing with the September 15 or 16th meeting.

EXPLANATION OF ROLE & MEMBERSHIP OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP – Blair McTavish –

Overview of the purpose of this group given by Blair and he also gave a reasoning for why the federal government is not sitting at this table. A handout was passed to the members for this presentation.

It was agreed to approve the Information Distribution Plan once suggested changes had been made to it.

INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION PLAN – BILL BARTO

Overview of the planned distribution activities and quick run through of the chart and how to read same.

It was stated that a decision was made previously to keep the minutes only in English

Discussion took place about a letter writing campaign which is currently ongoing. A decision was made that those requesting information be sent out to them will be directed to get the information where it is available for public review.

ACTION: Request was made to reword the #4 Column – to include the Metis community.

Tom Nepetaypo needs 4 copies of all information handed to him for his reports to be done for his communities.

CO-MANAGEMENT IN MANITOBA - Blair McTavish

An overview of the process was given by Mr. McTavish.

ACTION: A copy of this presentation will be made available to the members of the Roundtable.

NEXT MEETING:

Proposed Agenda Items:

- Financial Update East Side Planning Initiative
- Bill 19 – Mines and Minerals Act Amendment and Wildlife Management
- Presentation on wild rice and traplines and traditional territories, and other resources use at the present time to be done. Fur, Fish, etc, broken out in sport uses but not commercial use.

ACTION: The Secretariat be charged with the task of the finding out the definition of traditional territories.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The week of September 17, 2002. **Meeting date has been changed and members will be notified shortly of the new date.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter was handed out by the Berens River First Nation and tabled for consideration for discussion at the next meeting.

Closing Prayer by Tom Nepetaypo

Meeting Adjourned.

Materials distributed prior to the meeting:

- Draft Agenda
- First Draft of Minutes for June 27, 28/00 Meeting
- News Release - Federation of Ontario Naturalists/Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Report of the East Side Lake Winnipeg LUP Round Table Sub-Committee on Consultation Options
- Adventure Travel & Ecotourism Presentation
- Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative - Enduring Features Analysis Presentation
- Information Distribution Plan
- A Vision for the North - Pamphlet

Materials distributed at the meeting:

- July 29, 2002 letter from Gaile Whelan-Enns to Don Sullivan re: Analysis of Manitoba Hydro 2002 Presentations
- June 28, 2002 letter from Don Sullivan, Scott Kidd, Gaile Whelan-Enns to Minister Lathlin re: East Side Planning Initiative – Meetings of the Planning Round Table
- Conference Highlights - Forests of the Northern Lights
- July 30, 2002 letter to Mr. Phil Fontaine from John Berens re: Proposed Resolutions

Materials tabled at the meeting for future distribution:

- Nature Conservancy purchases land to protect park
- Algonquins and Quebec Reach Deal to Defuse Logging Crisis

First Draft - August 15, 2002