

Minutes

Lake Winnipeg East Side Round Table Meeting

October 23, 24, 25, 2002

Canad Inn Polo Park - Winnipeg

October 23, 2002 - Meeting of the East Side Round Table

Member Attendees:

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

Regrets:

Peter Kineu

Secretariat Attendees:

Mike Waldram Bill Anderson Joann Hebert Paulette Delaquis

Others in Attendance:

Caroline Bruyere

A dinner and short overview of the following day's presentations took place. The Round Table members in attendance were also given a preview of the video which would be shown at the meeting the next day. The comments which were received about the video from the membership at the viewing were very positive. A short discussion occurred, during which it was suggested that the video be made available on the website. A tour of the facility followed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

October 24, 2002 - Meeting of the East Side Round Table, the East Side Advisory Committee and the First Nation Council.

All information presented at this day's session was taped and will be made available to all in attendance once transcribed. The exact date of distribution is not know at this time.

Information Distributed at Meeting:

East Side Lake Winnipeg Broad Area Planning Initiative Phase I - Preliminary Discussions - Final Report - Comments and Recommendations - 2002.

East Side Lake Winnipeg Broad Area Planning Initiative Phase I - Preliminary Discussions - Final Report - Executive Summary - 2002.

East Side Lake Winnipeg Round Table Terms-of-Reference.

October 25, 2002 - Meeting of the East Side Round Table

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
Dr. David Punter	Wesley Harper	Jim Ticknor	Mike Martel
Tom Nepetaypo	Chief Nancy Whiteway	Peter Kinew	

Regrets:

Chief Vera Mitchell Paul Chief

Secretariat Attendees:

Mike Waldram	Bill Anderson	Bruce Bremner	Joann Hebert
Paulette Delaquis			

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Bingeman (alternate for Don Sullivan - part day)			
Caroline Bruyere	Marcella Vezina	Henry McKay	George Kemp
Serge Scrafield			

Meeting was brought to order by the Chair

Opening Prayer given by Caroline Bruyere

The Chair explained some of what was asked for in the prayer given by the elder. He also spoke regarding the happenings of the prior day's meeting. In particular, The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission people's presentation and the feelings stirred up by this presentation. Particularly the anger felt towards the government as far as First Nations are concerned. It was felt the Round Table needs to be able to present to people that they can overcome this and rise to the challenge of possible change. It was also noted that it is important to remind people of that and not to forget the stories and history of what has happened to the people of the areas in the past i.e., splitting of families, residential schools, etc.

MINUTES OF JULY 31 & 31, 2002 ROUND TABLE MEETING:

It was noted that on Page 9, paragraph 6 – there should be clarification that a decision was taken to invite Sandra Storm to present to the Round Table and the Round Table should be sure to have this as an action item from this meeting.

There was a question(s) about when the Round Table will get a copy of the Co-Management presentation done by Blair McTavish at the last meeting. It was suggested this could be sent out along with the draft minutes of this meeting.

Mention was made that the format of the Minutes is appreciated.

Move to accept the minutes by Ed Huebert and seconded by Ken Ellison
Minutes were approved and moved as accepted.

ACTION Items Arising From Minutes:

- **Have presentation from Sandra Storm at next meeting**
- **Send copy of Co-Management presentation done by Blair McTavish out along with the draft minutes of this meeting**
- **Send copies of handouts at last meeting to Jim Ticknor**

SYNOPSIS OF VIDEO

Mike Waldram

A copy of the Synopsis was handed out to Round Table Members.

Mike Waldram gave an overview of the points captured in the synopsis by the Secretariat. He also mentioned that a verbatim copy of the proceedings from the previous day would be sent out to the Membership at a later date.

ACTION: Complete copy of workshop results to be provided to all participants

Feedback

Question 1. What did you think of the presentation & video on the ESPI? Is there other information we can provide at the time to your community or organization?

A suggestion was made that Minister Aston be the first person seen speaking on the video. There was discussion surrounding the pros and cons of such a change being made. Some of the membership felt the Government should introduce this. At this point there was a question about whether it should be Minister Ashton, the Premier or the MLA for the area. It was suggested the Premier would not change unless there was a change in government and therefore it would be more effective to have the premier introduce the video.

Membership felt that if the video were digitized, it would be good to get a few CDs made of it for easier distribution.

A suggestion was made that the Chair could do a presentation on the radio and most First Nation communities have that radio station and would be a good source.

There was some discussion surrounding Copyright of information issues. It should be noted the membership felt that this video could be used by all interested in using it. An example would be by APTN (Aboriginal Peoples Television Network) using it as an infomercial or also if a audio recording were made of the video it could be used by the Aboriginal radio station as well.

ACTION – Chair of the Round Table make the suggestion to the government about who will be the introductory person on the video, Minister Ashton, Premier or MLA.

Question 2. How should the Round Table get views & ideas of your community or organization as well as get information back as it is developed?

Mike gave overview on what was listed in synopsis for Question 2. From what was stated, it seems clear that Round Table membership will be on the road and expected in the communities.

Group 2 made a point about information being sent back to the people once the information has been processed.

A recommendation was put to the table about drafting up a full Consultation Plan and budget.

It was felt the Consultation Plan is one of the key issues in this process and therefore, very important to have the grassroots people involved and visited.

Once the draft is done, the plan could be sent out to the members ASAP and they could return it to the Secretariat with comments. This way it would be almost finished prior to the next meeting where the Round Table membership could then be working on a second draft of the document. It was felt this may help to speed up the process.

Membership noted the need for the Chair to advocate to the Minister for more resources.

ACTION - Information distribution plan to be reviewed by secretariat and brought back to the table for their okay

ACTION - Need a list of information being distributed along with the community consultation plan

Question 3. Do you have other advice to provide at this time?

Mike Waldram gave an overview of this question as well.

There was a question about the concerns of managing this process, i.e., Open vs Closed meetings. Following are some of the points of discussion surrounding this issue.

- people don't like what goes on behind closed doors
- meetings must be transparent
- need proper info for room reservations, distribution of info etc.

- information needs to be readily available
- is there another way of saying this rather than open and closed

NB***Question raised about who is the woman typing all the information - and is it being recorded who is saying what and if this is being recorded as well.

It was suggested the Round Table have a consultation with the Advisory Committee and First Nation Council in order to clarify their role in this process. There was some discussion regarding the meeting held Oct 24th. It was stated this was not what some of the Chiefs expected. The Chair explained the intention of yesterdays meeting was not to meet with them separately but as a group in order to introduce the process to them and that in fact there would be other meetings with these two bodies in the future.

Next meeting of the Advisory Committee and First Nation Council should be held separately in order to clarify their roles and what the expectation is of them in this process. It was also felt that once the Consultation Plan is in place, this would clarify some of this issue.

It was suggested that all First Nation Council get all the information which is distributed to Round Table. Every effort will be made to contact all groups, communities, organizations, etc to share the information with all of these groups - this process is always going to be transparent. It is however important to note that not every suggestion will end up in the plan.

Membership felt it was important to get the video finished and out to the community before they start heading into the communities.

There was discussion about observers attending and taking control of meetings. It was felt there is great need to follow the rules Round Table membership have put in place about observers. The need being there is much business to get accomplished in a short time frame and some members felt this does not always happen due to interruptions.

It was stated there is specific Protocol for Traditional Intellectual Knowledge at meetings. These specific meetings would be held as closed sessions in order to guarantee compliance with those protocols. Meetings would be closed when issues of this nature are going to be discussed. Some of these areas would be discussion of spirituality issues, special sites, etc. **It is important to note that it would be at the request of a member and a ruling by the group about whether to close the meeting or not.**

At this point, the Chair explained that this is not going to be a free for all but also that people will not be denied the opportunity to speak. He felt that all the meetings we have had we have completed the agenda and that observer comments have not impeded this. Chair will not tolerate abusive or disruptive behaviour.

It was also noted the need to be sure we don't defer things to the next meeting. There is a fine line sometimes with regard to the timelines.

BERENS RIVER LETTER:

Introduction of the Berens River representatives were made by the Chair.

A presentation was made by Berens River representatives George Kemp, Gerald Kemp and Henry McKay regarding the Berens River Road.

George Kemp gave a presentation on Berens River Road (Rice River Road) and their concerns about same.

Some concerns are the reasons for why the road is not going north to Berens River. Berens wants to be included in the Rice River Road project and asked if they could be included. UMA has begun the project and Berens is not included in this process. He stated the Province has already put in plans for roads in Norway House and Island Lake area but not in Berens. They believe money is available for road from Hollow Water to Bloodvein and they feel that the funds should be available for furtherance of the road to Berens.

Mr. Kemp made mention that they have a resolution document prepared which was handed out by Mayor Henry McKay to the Chair of the Round Table on Oct. 24, 2002. This document was asking that the Round Table adopt this resolution and put it to the proper authorities in order to have the resolutions adopted by government.

The Berens River representatives asked for Round Table support and letters of recommendation from the Round Table to Minister Ashton, Transportation Minister and Premier Gary Doer.

Mayor Henry McKay spoke regarding the resolutions he gave to Round Table Chair the day prior and what their desires as well as needs are. It is felt that the government is going to build the road anyway and therefore it could be pushed further north to Berens River proper. It is also felt there is a great need for this road and the Mayor would like to be involved in this process. Mayor McKay gave reasons why he should be more involved – ie., he has lived there all his life and doesn't appreciate having others come and speak on his behalf when they don't know the community or the lifestyle of those residents.

Chief Nancy Whiteway spoke regarding the winter road and climate change. She gave examples of last winter where two vehicles went through the water and two lives were lost. By 2018 they feel they will not have the ability to build winter roads due to climate change and that climate change is happening quicker than any people had anticipated. They being residents of this northern community see it more than anyone else.

Councillor Gerald Kemp spoke about his life in Berens River and the lifestyle of the people ie., providing for family etc. He mentioned the cost of having things brought in to the community is about 52% more because of the freight costs. He feels that Berens River needs the opportunity to manage their resources ie., forest, gold etc. He stated they have managed their resources for the

last 1000 years. Mention was also made about the fact that no opportunity exists for the youth to participate in sports etc based on their location. People want to manage their own forest. He also stated there is no fight about fish but lots of fighting about forests. He stated there will be no Hydro or road unless the community profits.

Thanks from Chair for the presentation and explanation that Highways will be presenting this afternoon and hopes they will participate in this presentation. Chair also regrets that Chief Whiteway will not be able to be here for the presentation.

ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS PRESENTATION

(Copy of resolutions need to be available)

Joann recorded the letters which were handed to Phil Fontaine from the Berens River people – these need to be handed out at the next meeting or along with the minutes of this meeting

PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS – MANIGOTAGAN RIVER PARK RESERVES PRESENTATION – Rick Wilson

An overview of the initiatives taking place in the East Side Study Area was presented to Round Table members. Mr. Wilson explained the directions of the process which has taken place to date, ie what directions were given and what will be happening in the future.

Questions and discussion from the floor.

A statement was made that the Round Table was told that no changes would be done to the area without the consent of the Round Table and this has been done without having it brought to the Round Table. Did direction come from the Minister? Cabinet gives direction through Minister down. Seems there is a lack of communication between this process and Round Table members. It was stated an exchange of information can be done quite easily between the two groups. The Round Table member felt there needs to be more discussions between both groups and they work more closely together.

Should Secretariat staff have conversation with Wilson's staff about what consultations have taken place and how that could be used for the Draft Consultation Process to be done by the Secretariat.

When were consultations done with Manigotagan, Hollow Water, Seymourville and Bissett. It was stated there have been several but most were in early 2002.

Was there advertisement in the local papers? Yes, main approach has been to work through the community councils so that the council is aware of the initiatives going on in their own back yards.

Could the Round Table get a record of the consultations that have been done in the communities thus far. Yes this is possible.

A statement was made that there had not been enough consultation with the people of Manigotagan. Mr. Wilson provided background on this consultation and stated that several meetings have been held with the Mayor and council including two open community meetings to date. Mr. Wilson also stated he appreciates the opportunity to provide as much information to people about the process as possible.

There was a question raised about whether communication is taking place with the MMF people in the area as well as the First Nations and community.

ACTION: A request was made that a letter be sent to MMF stating what has taken place with the Metis people in this area.

ACTION: Could the Round Table get a record of the consultations that have been done in the communities thus far.

BILL 19 MINES AND MINERALS ACT PRESENTATION

Presentation was given by the Assistant Deputy Minister – Christine Kazycki

The presentation was distributed to the Round Table members.

Discussion took place regarding the Titanium exploration in the Cross Lake area.

There was a question about whether there are any Impact Benefit Agreements in place in the initiative area. Also, does the IBA work for the Northern Affairs communities as well.

Question re gravel pits and quarry explorations and developments regulations.

ACTION: Some information pamphlets which were missing will be sent to the Secretariat to be distributed to Round Table members

MANITOBA HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION PRESENTATION

Amarjit Chadha

The presenter gave an update on what is happening with regard to the Berens River connection. A map with the southern connection as well as the east/west connection was presented.

Highways recommendation is that all locations be looked at with a view to optimizing the costs of servicing all locations.

The department wants to do a large area study which would look at the costs etc. A proposal was made that a Route Network Study looks at all the issues.

The Berens River people felt they are never included in the discussions and wanted to know how many studies are needed? Berens River people are sick of studies and would like to see some action.

It was stated there was a large consultation done about 2 years ago with several organizations of which Berens River's Chief was part of the consultation.

The Round Table membership felt it would be helpful to know what has been studied and what the conclusions were of those studies.

Social, economic and environmental issues all need be taken into consideration when roads are being considered in an area. No longer can roads just be put where ever people want them to go but rather the decision is made according to the prior mentioned criteria. Another critical aspect in the building of the road is the river crossings.

Projects are broken down to workable projects i.e., Manigotagan to Bloodvein is an example of this. The cost of this is \$25,000,000.00.

A question arose as to what would be the cost to do a final study on the Bloodvein to Berens portion to determine where the exact location of the road should be. It was stated that the average cost per kilo to build a road is ½ million dollars (for gravel road construction). The Government of Manitoba has to bear all costs for the roads in the province – no federal input.

This sparked some discussion about funding coming from the federal government as well as the province. Mention made that when airstrips were put in the northern communities, the federal government footed at least 40% of the bill. Why would they not provide some funding for the road?

People wanted to know if the route connection options are from Bloodvein or from Berens River? There is a need for clarification on this . It was stated that if from Bloodvein then the corridor becomes much wider.

A statement was made by the Berens River people that there are always different reasons given to them for why they have no answer about the road – no money, can't cross the Bloodvein River. Yet other northern communities in the northern development area are getting roads and Berens River is now being considered as a southern community.

The question was asked about whether there is a report available on Climate change which the Department of Highways has access to which could be made available to the Round Table. The presenter responded there is no specific report but data has been made available to highways on this. Where do most of the accidents occur? Is it on the lake areas or on the muskeg areas of the winter roads.

Does the network that is in play here include other jurisdictions.

Chair made the following suggestions with regard to this presentation.

1. Time is an issue
2. Don't have all the information recommended to make an informed decision
3. Need other party discussions.

Some members feel they are not well enough informed at this time to make any kind of decisions as far as recommendations on the road. There is a need for Highways to get together with the Secretariat to get information about roads as well as to have further discussions.

A comment came from the table and it was felt that it was IMPORTANT to have noted in the minutes – a Round Table member asked to have the issue raised that it is not in the Terms Of Reference that the Round Table make recommendations at this stage of planning, on the Berens River issue because it is a single issue.

The Chair responded to the above point by quoting from the Terms Of Reference #8j. He felt it is a responsibility to deal with this issue because it was referred to the Round Table by the community.

ACTION - Chair suggested we defer further discussion on this issue until we have all information necessary to have a full discussion on this issue. The Chair directed the Project Manager to obtain the necessary information.

WILD RICE PRESENTATION – Kelly Leavesley

Overview and history of Wild Rice industry was given by presenter.

She spoke of the Wild Rice Act and the regulations regarding this industry.

Questions –

What are the most serious threats to wild rice from the decisions made by this table.

Answer: The easier the access the easier to harvest the licensed area. Threats to wild rice would be changes in water levels.

If communities had roads others may take advantage of potential wild rice.

Rice often has to be helped along to produce.

Unless you seed you are not likely to get good growth.

This industry only get about 3 good years out of 10 with no manipulation

WILDLIFE PRESENTATION – Vince Crichton

Presenter gave an overview of the Woodland Caribou areas.

He spoke about the brain worm disease which is carried by the white tail deer but can kill the caribou if they become infected.

To date in Manitoba there are 14 ranges of woodland caribou – 2 of which are on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.

It was felt these following points are relevant information for the Round Table to consider in its decision making process with regard to the Woodland Caribou:

- Radio telemetry work on the woodland caribou should play a role in the decision making process
- Some caribou move into Ontario in the summer
- Important to make note of the migration patterns of the woodland caribou in the area
- There is now a cross mix of the different groups of woodland caribou
- Elder from Berens had told presenter that First Nations peoples did not utilize the woodland caribou in the Berens River area as they prefer moose.
- Some animals are monitored with radio transmitter collars
- This winter 20-21 animals will be captured and monitored
- Road construction would greatly affect the caribou in the area
- Some areas are closed to hunting of the Caribou even to First Nations for preservation reasons
- Many of the development areas slated are areas where very important caribou herds are located.

There was a question as to Flintstone Lake effect on the caribou – presenter said it seems it has stayed about the same as in the 60s.

TRAPLINE PRESENTATION – Ian McKay

An overview of trapline history was given to the Round Table members.

Some points of interest mentioned are as follows:

- 5600 trappers in Manitoba
- 1.1 – 3.3 million dollars harvested annually
- industry generates \$14 million in economic benefits
- Beaver, Marten and Fox are the animals most trapped
- Trappers concerns will be people's access into the area
- Animal rights activists would then also have access

- There are standards for killing traps as well as restraining traps

ACTION - Mr. McKay left Copies of the Trappers Guide for distribution to Round Table Members

Chair gave thanks for all the good work and participation throughout the last 3 days of meetings to all the people involved.

There were a couple of questions/statements which arose at this time.

1. Are copies being made available of ALL presentations to all the 100 people involved.
2. There should be 10 minutes allowed for elders and have that time slotted into the agenda.

The Chair believes that elders are the central part of this process and the Round Table will make serious efforts to accommodate their input. This will be one of the first agenda items for the next meeting.

ACTION: Have listed as a opening agenda item the discussion regarding Elder discussions.

Deferred Item: Water Strategy presentation

Closing Prayer given by Caroline Bruyere

The meeting adjourned at 5:30

Information Distributed at Meeting:

(a) Information from presenters:

Synopsis of 3 question sessions from October 23, 2002

Mineral Presentation and Manitoba Mining Pamphlet

Amendments to the Mines and Minerals Act

Impact Benefit Agreements INNU-ASSIN EIMISH TIPATSHIMUN

Submission of the Grand Council of the Crees (EEYOU ISTCHEE) to the Energy Ministers' Conference 2002 - Winnipeg, Manitoba - September 15 - 18, 2002

Wild Rice Allocations

Building Sustainable Future

Water: A proposed Strategic Plan for Manitoba

A Discussion Paper

(b) Information for discussion/resolution:

Tembec letter- dated October 4, 2002 - to Honourable Gary Doer Re Manigotagan Park Reserve extended boundaries.

Berens River letter - dated July 30, 2002 - to Mr. Phil Fontaine re expediting all-weather road access to Berens River

(c) Other:

Canadian Nature Federation - letter to Minister Smith re: All weather Road - East Side Lake Winnipeg

Dated Oct 21, 2002 - signed by Gaile Whelan Enns

Rice River Road Study Area

UMA Engineering

Map and letter to Gaile Whelan Enns from Don Hester, Public Consultation Mgr., UMA Engineering Ltd.

Nature Conservancy purchases land to protect park

Dated Friday, July 19, 2002

Algonquins and Quebec Reach Deal to defuse Logging Crisis

Dated July 26, 2002

NB: Please note the data for the Harvest 2001 on the Forestry map is for data from 1983 to 2000. It was compiled in 2001.