



## Wabano Nakaygum Okimawin

“east side of the lake governance”  
East Side Planning Initiative

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### Broad Area Planning

**Minutes**  
**Wabano Nakaygum Okimawin Council**  
**Radisson Hotel Downtown, Winnipeg**  
**Monday, May 29, 2006**

**Present:**

Name	Representation	AM
<b>Barker</b> , Rene	Chief's Designate, Hollow Water FN	X
<b>Cromarty</b> , Jimmock	Chief's Designate, Norway House Cree N	X
<b>Courchene</b> , Myles Councillor	Chief's Designate, Sagkeeng F N	X
<b>Harper</b> , Gregory	Chief's Designate, Red Sucker Lake F N	X
<b>Harper</b> , Jack	Chief's Designate, Garden Hill First Nation	X
<b>Harper</b> , Ronald Chief	Wasagamack First Nation	X
<b>Johnston</b> , Oral Councillor	Chief's Designate, Black River F N	X
<b>Kanabee</b> , Phillip Councillor	Chief's Designate, God's Lake F N	X
<b>Keenan</b> , Vince	WNO Round Table	X
<b>Keeper</b> , Nelson Vice Chief	Chief's Designate, Little Grand Rapids FN	X
<b>Kemp</b> , George Chief	Berens River First Nation	X
<b>Knott</b> , Jimmock	Red Sucker Lake First Nation	X
<b>Markham</b> , David	WNO Round Table	X
<b>McKay</b> , Henry	Berens River First Nation	X
<b>Miller</b> , Peter Dr.	WNO Round Table	X
<b>Ross</b> , Chris Chief	God's Lake First Nation	X
<b>Ross</b> , Roger Chief	Manto Sipi Cree Nation	X
<b>Ticknor</b> , Jim	WNO Round Table	X
<b>Turtle</b> , Oswald Councillor	Chief's Designate, Bloodvein F N	X
<b>Twoheart</b> , Linda Chief	Sagkeeng First Nation	X
<b>Weenusk</b> , Tommy Councillor	Bunibonabee Cree Nation	X
<b>Wood</b> , Ambrose Councillor	Chief's Designate, Wasagamack F N	X
<b>Yellowback</b> , JR	Chief's Designate, Manto Sipi Cree N	X

**Regrets:** Chief Marcel Balfour, Derek Bushie, Chief Ian Bushie, Chief Harold Crow, Louis Crow, Chief Roland Hamilton, Chief David Harper, Chief Gabriel Hart, Councillor Eddie Hudson, Chief Ray Keeper, Chief Sheldon Kent, Chief Russell Lambert, Roy A. Mason, Daniel Ross

**Guest/Observers:** Curtis Swain (Southeast Tribal Council), Herman Green (SERD) Augustine Keeper (Little Grand Rapids)

**Staff:** Bill Anderson, Rick Ratte, Pat Williamson, Bernie Wood.

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.0	<b>Opening Prayer – Ed Wood</b>	
2.0	<b>Review and Adoption of Agenda – Ed Wood (Co-Chair)</b> -Reminder that a Quorum was needed and that the proceedings were being recorded for the purpose of accurate minutes	- Agenda adopted as presented (Attachment #1)
3.0	<b>Review of WNO Council Draft Minutes dated Thursday, March 2, 2006</b>	-Minutes approved as presented
4.0	<p><b>Business Arising from the Minutes dated Thursday, March 2, 2006</b></p> <p><b>Funding for Working Groups:</b> -with the new fiscal year, why have the working groups not been convened? -focused on community land use planning -this issue on working groups has not been resolved with the Minister -further discussion Co-Chair’s Briefing Notes under Section 6.0 below</p> <p><b>Representation on Working Groups:</b> -who decides who sits on these working groups? -each chief and council are asked for representatives and the chief and council decide who their representatives are for each community</p> <p><b>Letter dated Feb 23, 2006 from Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs provided by Manto Sipi Cree Nation</b> -this letter was provided for information purposes only</p> <p><b>New Budget</b> -TB Approval – can we have a copy of this budget -Federal contribution – where is this at? -Provincial Funds have been set aside for community based land use planning initiative with the provision that the Federal government provided funding as well -a portion of the budget has to be fundraised from other sources with assistance from the Provincial Ministers involved -see Briefing Notes by Ed Wood for more information -Consensus that a fundraiser position should be tendered</p> <p><b>Executive Committee of Chiefs</b> -Tri Lateral Resource Access Committee Working Group Terms of Reference (TRAC) -WNO Secretariat reviewed it; Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC)are discussing at their assembly this week</p>	
5.0	<p><b>WNO Council Briefing Notes - Ed Wood Protocol of Agreement</b> -when will WNO Council see a copy of the document? -once negotiations are completed, the document will be made available to the public -Will WNO Council be given a chance for input or changes? -Council of Chiefs is meeting this afternoon and this will be clarified</p> <p><b>Web Site</b> -minutes should be on web site once approved</p> <p><b>Funding</b> -has the secretariat looked into the possibility of some of the</p>	<p>Attachment # 2 Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin May 29, 2006 Briefing Notes by Ed Wood Deferred to Council of Chiefs</p> <p>Secretariat to follow up</p>

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Action</u>
	<p>potential funders in favour of the World Heritage Site providing funding to the WNO process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Secretariat has contacted Indian and Northern Affairs, Western Diversification Fund, Canadian Boreal Initiative</li> <li>-Ministers and Executive Committee of Chiefs have been trying to arrange meetings to discuss funding with Federal ministers</li> <li>-The Minister's office is inquiring whether or not Treasury Board to change the conditions of funding of community land based planning so WNO can access this funding</li> <li>-WNO Secretariat does not want to interfere with fundraising efforts of the World Heritage Site Secretariat</li> </ul> <p><b>WNO Five Report-tabled for Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Item C of the report is related to Funding</li> <li>-is there any intention to hire a professional fundraiser?</li> <li>-former fundraising team dissolved</li> <li>-no allocation for a fundraiser in the WNO Secretariat budget</li> <li>-Canadian Boreal Initiative will not consider funding a fundraiser</li> <li>-Ministers have been asked to hire a fundraiser; no response to date</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion:</b> Subject to funding being available, WNO is to solicit tenders for the fundraising initiative which will abide by the aboriginal purchasing policy of the Province of Manitoba and the proposals must include a plan, associated costs and timelines. Johnston Ticknor Carried</p>	<p>WNO Five Report Attachment # 3</p> <p>Executive Committee of Chiefs to raise the Fundraising Issue with Ministers</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>	

**Summary of Action Items and Recommendations:**

Item	Action Item/recommendation	Responsibility
<b>5.0</b>	Web Site to be updated as minutes are approved	Secretariat
	Fundraising Motion to be discussed with Ministers	Exec Chiefs/Ministers

## Attachments:

- 1 - Amended Agenda
- 2 –WNO Council May 29, 2006 Briefing Notes-Ed Wood
- 3 – WNO Five Report

Attachment 1

**WABANONG NAKAYGUM OKIMAWIN COUNCIL**  
**Monday, May 29, 2006**  
**Radisson Hotel Downtown, Terrace Room**  
**Winnipeg, MB**  
**9:00 am to 11:00 am**

AGENDA AS ADOPTED

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1. Opening Prayer
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Review and Adoption of Past Minutes –March 2, 2006
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. WNO Council May 29, 2006 Briefing Notes – Ed Wood
6. Adjournment – Ed Wood

## **WABANONG NAKAYGUM OKIMAWIN (WNO)**

**May 29, 2006**

**Briefing Notes by Ed Wood**

*The Secretariat submits all information of the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin as it becomes available to Chairperson Phil Fontaine.*

### **PROTOCOL OF AGREEMENT**

The First Nation Protocol Negotiating Team (PNT) have completed their work and turned over their final draft to the Executive Chiefs Committee for review with the Ministers responsible for the WNO.

The team members will be formally acknowledged in the submission of the final report.

There were some unresolved issues between the First Nations PNT and the Province of Manitoba (PNT). These were turned over to the leaders for final recommendations to be presented to the Council of Chiefs and the Provincial Cabinet.

A new draft emerged from Executive Chiefs Committee meeting with the Ministers on April 18, 2006. This was forwarded to the First Nation legal counsel, Bryan Shwartz and Manitoba Government legal counsel, Gord Hannon for legal wording of the agreement.

There were two meetings between the legal counsels and the result is the document that will be presented by the Executive Chiefs Committee to the Council of Chiefs today. There are some unresolved issues that will be discussed between the Council of Chiefs and the Provincial Ministers before the document is finalized for presentation to the Chief & Councils.

### **BROAD AREA PLAN**

A document containing principles of a Broad Area Plan is in a final drafting stage. We expect that it will be ready for discussion at the next WNO meeting.

### **COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING**

The community land use planning process will begin when funds are available. The provincial contribution of approximately five hundred thousand dollars has been approved by Treasury Board but has a restriction that these funds have to be matched before they are released.

## **WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

The World Heritage Site (WHS) nomination includes the territories of four (4) of our East Side of Lake Winnipeg First Nations. They are Poplar River, Little Grand Rapids, Paungassi, and Bloodvein. The other member is the Pikangikum First Nation from Ontario.

A new Secretariat is being organized to lead, manage and administrate the work of the nomination.

Although the community (territorial) land use plans will form an important part of the application to accompany the nomination, the land use planning and its funding will remain a responsibility of the WNO and each First Nation.

## **OTHER FIRST NATION RESOURCE INITIATIVES**

The WNO management is aware that the First Nations have other agreements on First Nation Resource Development, such as the TRAC agreement between the AMC, INAC and the Manitoba Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Every effort is being made not to interfere but to cooperate with these other First Nations initiatives.

## **NEW FINANCIAL ENTITY**

An incorporation of a new entity that will receive and manage land use planning funds on behalf of the WNO was approved by resolution at the December 1, 2005 WNO meeting. The province states that it has some responsibility to determine the structure of the new entity. Their advice is still pending.

## **FUNDRAISING FOR NEW ENTITY**

The Secretariat has begun to prepare and submit some funding applications.

There is no progress on retaining a professional fundraiser or fundraising team.

## **EXECUTIVE CHIEFS COMMITTEE**

The Executive Chiefs Committee have met twice with the Provincial Ministers since the last WNO meeting. Their reports are submitted to the Council of Chiefs.

## **PLANNING COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

There has been no meeting of the Planning Coordinating Committee since October 11, 2005.

## **WORKING GROUPS**

The active working groups are;

1. Community Planning Working Group
2. Communications Working Group
3. Transportation Working Group

Three other working groups were authorized by WNO resolution;

1. Energy Working Group
2. Resource Management Working Group
3. Tourism Working Group

There have been no recent meetings of the active working groups.

There has been no initial meeting of the three new working groups.

The March 2, 2006 report by the Secretariat indicated that meetings cannot be held until new funds are received after April 1,; 2006.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The newsletter is in process.

An NCI radio report was taped but has not been released for airing.

There are two registries for WNO official documents.

1. The Central Registry
2. The WNO Website

The final approved documents and minutes appear on those registries.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

The instruction on the March 2, 2006 WNO for the Co-Chair to meeting with the 5 non-First Nation members of WNO was carried on March 13, 2006.

A report prepared by the WNO 5 is available.

Respectfully Submitted

Ed Wood  
Co-Chair

**To: The WNO Council**

**From: “The WNO 5” (Jim Campbell, Vince Keenan, David Markham, Peter Miller, Jim Ticknor)**

**Subject: Report of concerns aired at a meeting on March 13, 2006**

WNO Co-chair, Mr. Ed Wood, convened us on March 13 to give us an opportunity to voice any concerns we might have regarding the WNO process. This report summarizes several of our observations. Jim Campbell, representing the Métis Community living on the east side, will file a separate report. We hope that this report is helpful as we continue our dialogue on the WNO.

### **1. Confidence in Ed Wood**

First we wish to express confidence in Ed Wood’s leadership of the process and appreciation for his even-handed concern to let all voices be heard.

### **2. Need to take account of stakeholder interests**

Next we make the observation that we are part of this process in recognition that the east side, in addition to being the traditional territory of First Nations in the region, is also largely Provincial Crown Land in which many citizens of Manitoba have an interest or from which they derive benefits. Even many who do not travel to the region appreciate the fact that the east side is part of our Manitoba heritage that they would like to preserve. Indeed the potential nomination of a portion of the region as a World Heritage Site recognizes there is global interest in this region. Others enjoy the activities of canoeing, hunting, fishing and bird-watching in the region. Yet others have economic interests in regional resources for timber, minerals, or tourism. And the ecologically informed recognize that the forests, lands, and waters of the east side are an important part of our global life support system. We regard it as the Province’s responsibility to take account of the interests of all its citizens, even while recognizing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and the importance of establishing a new working relationship with the Aboriginal communities on the east side.

We share all of these concerns – recognizing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, establishing new working relationships with east side communities, and also recognizing the interests of other Manitoba citizens. It is our hope that the Protocol of Agreement currently under negotiation and subsequent resource-sharing agreements will be able to develop the governance, benefits, and regulatory structures to harmonize these in a consistent fashion.

We find attractive the approach to dialogue and partnerships of Pikangikum’s Whitefeather Initiative. Their web site identifies the importance of dialogue and partnerships to the success of their community-based planning process and describes how these were achieved.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.whitefeatherforest.com/the\\_initiative/cb-lup-dialogue.html](http://www.whitefeatherforest.com/the_initiative/cb-lup-dialogue.html)  
<http://www.whitefeatherforest.com/partnerships/introduction.html>

### 3. Need for increased effectiveness in the process

Our remaining observations relate to the effectiveness of the WNO process. We believe that the process could be more effective than it is and that it is important to create the right conditions for progress. For example, we are almost a year and a half into the current phase of the planning process with no communication with the general public. The WNO website still lists the membership of the previous phase, rather than the current one. A newsletter was supposed to be out in the fall, but it has still not seen the light of day.

Here are some areas that need attention to create an effective process.

#### *a. Support for community planning.*

Community plans should embody the historic and current uses and values of the land as well as community aspirations, and together they should lead to a harmonized regional plan. Attention is being paid to securing and funding community facilitators, but other resources will be required as well. In particular we note the importance of providing appropriate technical guidelines and support for mapping and information management and a template for the community planning process. We commend the Community Planning Working Group and Brian Wilkes for developing a planning manual that can guide the process, but we believe that more technical support and coordination need to be provided once the community planning is underway.

#### *b. Communication and solicitation of feedback.*

We described some of the problems that need to be addressed above. Furthermore we believe that, at a minimum, the interim report (or else the forthcoming draft report) should be circulated to members of the East Side Advisory Committee with an invitation to provide comments. It would be desirable as well to convene a forum to present and discuss these documents.

#### *c. Funding*

The Province has committed to providing only a fraction of the budget needed to support the planning process. Raising funds takes time and effort and someone needs to give this focused attention. We believe that a more effective effort needs to be made by securing the services of someone with the requisite skills. Furthermore we believe that further delay may jeopardize our prospects for securing funds, if key foundations allocate their funds elsewhere or end their boreal forest programs.

#### *d. Timely progress*

The east side planning process began six years ago. Few recognized the complexity of the process being embarked upon, which is now into its third phase. Elapsed time can be either a friend or an enemy of success. It can be a friend in allowing enough time for a complex set of planning activities to be completed so long as progress is being made, but it can also be an enemy if people's energies, commitments and funds flag. As well, provincial and First Nation governments and participants can change, with the danger that momentum and a high level of commitment are lost. For the process to remain effective, participants and supporters should see steady progress with effective leadership and working relationships and partnerships.