

October 08, 2003

Charter House Hotel – Winnipeg, Manitoba

Members present: Ed Schreyer Helgi Einarsson David Punter
Don Courchene Wesley Harper Vera Mitchell
Peter Miller Cherry White Don Sullivan
Gilbert Knott Peter Kinew Paul Chief
Mike Martel Sherry Dangerfield

Regrets: Al Benoit Ken Ellison Jim Ticknor
Phil Fontaine Nancy Whiteway

Secretariat present: Bill Anderson Bernie Wood Peter Globensky
Barb Hobson Bruce Bruyere

Guests: Linda Morrisson Mike Waldram David Chadwick
Minister Oscar Lathlin

1. The meeting opened with a prayer by elder, Peter Kinew. The Chair called the meeting to order.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AGENDA ITEMS

- Community Visits reports added to the Agenda
- Rick Ratte hired for the Communications Officer position, was introduced

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 8, 2003 MEETING

A motion to adopt the minutes made by Dr. Peter Miller and seconded by Dr. David Punter.

4. ACTION ITEMS ARISING FROM AUGUST 8, 2003 MEETING

- Status of video – Cree and Ojibway version are ready and Oji-Cree is being prepared
- Elders Gathering is tentatively scheduled for November 25, 2003 with a Round Table meeting
- The MOU and Appendix B were distributed by fax to Round Table and First Nations Council members
- “Towards Better Relations With The First Nations: Manitoba Conservation Discussion Paper” - Woodward & Company Barristers & Solicitors review distributed by fax to all Round Table and First Nations Council members

Further discussion followed regarding INAC funding and how it could be administered. There are three Tribal Councils who could administer the funds but INAC recommended that only one Tribal Council manage on behalf of the First Nations Council. The Tribal Council selected would be in good standing with terms and conditions of current contracts.

There has been an interest expressed from the Ministers to attend the Elders Gathering.

A question was raised about the selection of community co-ordinators and how facilitators will be selected.

There were comments shared in regards to how some communities selected their community co-ordinators. Comments and concerns were raised to ensure the facilitators selected be the most qualified candidates, as the position requires very specific skills. A suggestion was made for the Round Table to develop the Terms of Reference or job description for the Facilitator positions.

5. MANITOBA MODEL FOREST INITIATIVE PRESENTATION

Mike Waldram gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Manitoba Model Forest Initiative. The presentation was delayed for Minister Lathlin's presentation and continued after he completed his presentation. Question and discussion followed with a member asking if the Manitoba Model Forest assisted with land use studies? The Model Forest projects have led to mapping of data and putting into CD format for educational purposes. What area does the Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee sponsored by the Manitoba Model Forest cover for the study of Caribou herds? They cover the East Side of the Lake Winnipeg up to Round Lake.

6. MINISTER OSCAR LATHLIN PRESENTATION

Minister Lathlin joined the meeting to discuss the East Side Planning Initiative and thanked the Round Table members for their work in this process. He stated the most important message to deliver is communities will be involved in this process and we will listen to the people who are indigenous to the East Side all the other people who reside in the area.

A comment and question period followed the Minister's presentation. A Round Table member commented this process has been very challenging and the community visits are just getting started.

The Minister was asked if government could set up a process allowing for better communication between the Round Table and government.

The Minister commented that he is more than willing to meet with members to discuss the process and concerns.

The Minister was asked about the June 2004 deadline. He responded that they do not expect to see a complete plan by the deadline date, however they do expect to see a report/recommendations by the June 2004 deadline.

Another member asked if the Round Table would still be needed after the deadline? He responded that there may be a need for the Round Table to continue after the deadline.

There was discussion about the inner road in Berens River First Nation and the community's request to have the Round Table assist in communicating their request to have the road upgraded, to government.

The Minister commented that developing good communication was important but if the committees deal with every issue that is presented this could bog down the process.

A motion was made to request a letter of support for INAC funding. The motion read: **The Government of Manitoba move immediately to secure a letter of commitment from Indian & Northern Affairs of Canada (INAC) that will provide funding for the East Side Planning Initiative (ESPI) First Nations community participation process. That once secured the Government of Manitoba provide immediate bridge financing to initiate the community participation required to accommodate a June 2004 delivery of the broad area plan.**

7. FINAL DRAFT OF BROAD AREA PLAN

Discussion followed regarding what kind of information would be needed to complete a final report. A person will be contracted to gather the information and compile a 40-50 page document that is user friendly for interpretation of the data. The Round Table members were requested to provide advice and guidance in this process.

There was discussion about how to start preparing and the possible need to do a gap analysis because of lack of data north of the 53° parallel. Is there an assumption that the communities will have a land use plan in place before the June 2004 deadline? No but the communities should have a community plan in place for the deadline. This may need to be discussed at the next Round Table meeting.

There was discussion about the commitment level from Round Table members in this whole process. Members need to be committed and be willing to be involved in every process of this initiative to ensure the process moves forward.

A suggestion made to create a working group to discuss the 6 main points of the Terms of Reference to identify topics for the plan.

Recommendation for Round Table members to meet in sub-committees to discuss the main points and concerns raised from the first round of community visits. Grouping the issues and communities should allow the members to see the gaps and issues that may not be covered by any community.

8. COMMUNITY VISITS UPDATE

Bernie Wood provided an update of the communities that have been visited and the communities that still require visits. He handed out the community visits schedule.

There was discussion and a question about the communities that are on the schedule but are not in the designated area.

Brief updates provided by Round Table members from the communities they visited.

Action Item No.1: Secretariat to find out why the communities are included when they are not located on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

Action Item No.2: Secretariat to send a thank you note to Berens River First Nation Chief & Council for donating fish for the dinner.

9. REPORT ON WORLD INDIGINEOUS FORESTRY CONFERENCE

Don Courchene handed out his report from the conference. The report was accepted and approved.

10. PROTOCOL FOR PARTICIPATION IN ROUND TABLE MEETINGS

The protocol for participation was discussed and it was pointed out that this issue was covered at the June 2002 Round Table meeting.

11. EXPENSES PRESENTATION

Linda Morrison provided a presentation of the expense claims and government procedures and rates.

There was discussion about how slow the process is for expense checks to get back to Round Table members and the need to speed up this process.

12. APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE CHAIR

There was discussion about the appointment of an associate chair and recommendation to have the minister appoint a person for this position.

Round Table members were invited to make recommendations for any suitable candidates they may be aware of for this position.

13. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Discussion of elders gathering and how to approach communities in a respectful way to invite equal representation from both male & female elders. There was a question raised about inviting elders from other communities to be involved in this process.

Participation of First Nations Council with the Round Table to be discussed at a future meeting.

Elder Peter Kinew gave the closing prayer and the chair adjourned the meeting.

Information Provided at Meeting:

- Indigenous Peoples' Forest Forum Report from Don Courchene
- ESPI First Nations Council May 8, 2003 meeting minutes
- ESPI Bissett community visits notes
- Poplar River First Nation letter

Information Gathered at Meeting:

- Boreal Forest Network newspaper
- No change before review, minister tells lobbyist article – Winnipeg Free Press Oct 8, 2003