

Council of Elders

Record of Discussion #7

APM-REP-00676-0007

July 2014

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MANAGEMENT
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**Record of Discussion
NWMO Council of Elders
Kingbridge Conference Centre, King City, ON
July 7th – 9th, 2014**

Attendees:

NWMO Council of Elders:

Chair: Donna Augustine

Members: Leslie Perley, Joseph Poitras, Billie Schibler, Roland St. Germain, Billy Two Rivers, Gordon Williams, Grace Manitowabi, Angus Gardiner, Diane Longboat, Adolph Rasevych, George Morin, Brandon Petahtegoose, Jeff Kineu, Rayanna Seymour, Madison Levi, Shavonne Custer, Norman Stagg, Rebekah Wilson

Advisors: Joanne Barnaby, Fred Kelly, Melanie Hadley,

Community Guests :

Rick Allen (Constance Lake First Nation), James Burns (James Smith First Nation), Raymond Goodchild (Pays Plat First Nation), Gloria Hendrick-Laliberte (Nishnawbe Aski Nation), Jon MacDonald (Jackfish Métis Association), Steve Meawasige (Serpent River First Nation), Raymond Medeiros (Hornepayne First Nation), Henry Morin (Peter Ballantyne First Nation), Tammy Tremblay (Sagamok Anishnawbek)

NWMO:

Staff: Kathryn Shaver, Bob Watts, Pat Patton, Raymond Hatfield, Jamie Matear, Lawrence Joseph, Jessica Perritt, Ross Holden, Sarah Neuert, Jake Linklater, Erik Kremer, Melissa Mayhew

Monday, July 7th

Elder Fred Kelly opened the Council of Elders Meeting with a song and stories of dreams and visions, explaining that what we sometimes think as insignificant can be the opposite. Participants shared in the eating of blueberries while Elder Kelly shared additional symbolism, describing lightning, as given by the Thunderbird, as energy, and the connection to nuclear energy. Elder Donna Augustine welcomed the youth and reinforced the importance of being proud of one's identity. She also reminded the group that everyone has something to bring to every venue. She acknowledged the past contributions of Cynthia Jourdain, and the hard work of Pat Patton with NWMO.

Welcome remarks were then provided by Bob Watts.

History of NWMO Council of Elders – Pat Patton

Pat Patton chronicled the history NWMO's work with Aboriginal peoples, beginning in 2002 with Aboriginal Dialogues and foundation building, the first Elders Forum meeting in 2005, joint learning in 2006, and development of a Mission Statement and formation of Niigani in 2007. These early years were marked by the NWMO learning about Aboriginal peoples and the importance of ceremony in engagement activities. The Elder's Forum in 2008 and 2009 focused on development of the NWMO's Aboriginal Policy and review of and input to the Site Selection Process. In 2010 and 2011, Elders and Youth attended meetings and workshops and began to think about restructuring the Elders Forum to meet the needs of local Aboriginal communities and groups near interested communities. In 2012, a restructured Council of Elders began and its Terms of Reference was written. In 2013, members

attended community and regional meetings, and a discussion about youth participation in the Council was initiated. In 2014, a selection committee for youth was formed. Elder Gordon Williams was recognized for his work as the Chair of the Elders Council from 2005 to 2012. He commented on the hard work of all those involved, and how he saw that all were guided by their own spiritual connections. He informed the audience that the NWMO's work will be a challenging journey, but a good one. He also indicated his thanks for the privilege to having been Chair. Another Elder recalled the 2005 Elders Forum meeting and his position against the project at the time. He believes the most important resource in the project is youth involvement, both this generation and the next one. He also spoke highly of NWMO's engagement with communities in Saskatchewan and reiterated the importance of a continuing learning process. Finally, he acknowledged NWMO Elders now deceased, and expressed his thanks for being a part of the Council of Elders. In closing, the NWMO's VP of APM Engagement Kathryn Shaver commented on how fundamental the advice of the Elders has been and looks forward to continued advice from the Elders and Youth as the Site Selection Process moves forward.

TEK Policy Discussion - Bob Watts, Sara Neuert & Joanne Barnaby

NWMO staff introduced the NWMO's draft TEK Policy for discussion by the Council of Elders, noting the following:

- The policy is still a ways away from completion
- It is important to share with the Council of Elders
- NWMO will continue to work with the Elders until the policy is complete

The 2013 document was considerably longer than it is today and was initially considered a discussion document. The March 2014 document was edited down to a draft document and has since been tightened up to a more clear and succinct, yet flexible policy. The draft document is intended to prepare communities and the NWMO for Traditional Knowledge work, noting it is important that NWMO is clear how it is going to interact with communities, especially as it applies to Traditional Ecological Knowledge. The Council of Elders then reviewed the draft policy paragraph by paragraph.

Questions and comments related to:

- The sharing of a draft TEK policy with First Nation and Métis communities and organizations.
- Non-Aboriginal communities and individuals, and their knowledge.
- Demographics of a potential project area.
- Consideration of spiritual considerations in TEK policy.
- Engage in ceremony before, during and after construction/operation.
- Consideration of women in TK policy.

It was proposed that an NWMO/Council of Elders working group/sub-committee be formed to examine the questions arising out of the discussion, and the drafting of TEK policy. Joanne Barnaby suggested the policy should be flexible enough to support individual approaches, and a member of the Council suggested that it would be important to include youth in the discussion of TEK policy.

Review NWMO Council of Elders Terms of Reference

Bob reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Council of Elders. A member of the Council sought clarification on the question as to whether there would be 2 co-chairs, and if one of those co-chairs was to be a youth member, etc. Bob responded that the intent was that there would be 2 co-chairs of the Elders council, and 1 co-chair for the youth component. This issue could be revisited at the next Council of Elders meeting.

In response to a question related to the ratification of minutes, Bob responded that NWMO typically doesn't ratify minutes because they are a summary and there is no personal attribution.

A discussion was had with respect to the definition of "youth," i.e. at what age is one no longer a "youth." Some participants suggested age 30. One participant relayed that he was aware of an organization where youth ends at the age of 36. It was agreed that the NWMO Council of Elders Terms of Reference youth age range remains as 18-35.

The meeting was then adjourned for the day.

Orientation - Tuesday, July 8th

History of NWMO and APM Program – Pat Patton

Pat Patton provided an overview of the history of the NWMO and the APM program, including:

- About the NWMO - How We Got Here
- Study Period 2002-2005
- Canada's plan
- Selecting a site
- Preliminary Assessments
- Phase 2 - Preliminary assessments

Subsequent discussion revolved around the role and participation of First Nation and Métis communities in APM, and in particular the benefits received for participation. Some participants suggested that Aboriginal communities were not being treated fairly vis-à-vis support for community involvement. NWMO staff explained that support for community involvement was given to communities that volunteered to be considered as interested host communities. NWMO staff also acknowledged the importance of treating all communities fairly.

NWMO Aboriginal Relations - Bob Watts & Aboriginal Relations Team

Bob provided an overview of the unit's mandate and work. Staff introduced themselves.

Community Well-Being – Jo-Ann Facella

Jo-Ann Facella provided an overview of the NWMO's approach to Community Wellbeing (CWB), including the importance of, and the NWMO's approach, to working together, and the NWMO's starting framework for CWB.

Questions and comments related to:

- NWMO outreach to surrounding communities.
- The role of First Nations and Métis in defining and assessing CWB?

NWMO acknowledged that the definition of CWB is going to differ from community to community.

Managing Difficult Conversations- Sara Neuert & Diane Longboat

Sara Neuert provided an overview of how to recognize and understand why conflicting views can lead to difficult conversations and tools for turning such conflicts into "opportunities to grow." Elder Longboat provided a presentation on seeking collaborative solutions within a framework grounded in indigenous worldviews. In doing so, Elder Longboat emphasized the importance of recognizing and respecting ancestors, and preparing children and youth to play a constructive role in the future.

Wednesday, July 9th

What is Radiation? - Erik Kremer

Erik Kremer provided an overview of the nature of radiation ("Radiation 101"), nuclear fuel, and human exposure considerations.

Questions and comments related to:

- Domestic vs. international approaches to nuclear fuel
- Different forms of radiation in everyday life, industrial considerations
- Regulatory limits for exposure – for general population, and nuclear workers
- The possibility and impact of a shipping container breaching
- Radioactivity in wet storage ponds
- Medical uses of radiation
- Chernobyl
- Theft of radioactive materials in Mexico
- Heat build-up in the repository

Environment – Melissa Mayhew

Melissa Mayhew made a presentation on the subject of environmental considerations for the DGR, including project design and siting, regulatory processes, and mitigation.

Questions and comments related to:

- The importance of safeguarding the environment as much as people
- Regulatory requirements for cultural assessments
- Baseline environmental studies

- Potential environmental effects beyond radiation e.g. during construction

Walking the Land - Bob Watts & Ben Belfadhel

Bob Watts and Ben Belfadhel provided an overview of what will be involved in “walking the land” during Phase 2 Assessments, including:

- pre-walking the land activities i.e. airborne geophysical surveys
- reconnaissance geological mapping over large areas
- detailed geological mapping over smaller areas
- sources of data
- Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge

Questions and comments related to:

- The status of Phase 2 assessments on a community-by-community basis
- Observing wildlife when conducting airborne surveys

Closing Comments and Ceremony

Closing comments related to:

- Guest Elders thanked the NWMO for inviting them to the meeting
- A number of Elders stressed the importance of taking a holistic and integrated approach to project design and assessment, in particular the importance of TEK, culture, spirituality, sustainability, etc.

The meeting closed with a ceremony acknowledging the contribution of Pat Patton to the NWMO, and granting her status as an honorary Métis person, on the occasion of her retirement.

Next Steps

Possible agenda items for next meeting:

- Seek guidance on review of the NWMO TEK Policy, including possibly forming a sub-committee to aid in drafting.
- More in-depth examination of regulatory requirements and processes, including cultural assessments.