

Council of Elders

Record of Discussion #10

APM-REP-00676-0202

March 2015

Kathryn Shaver

Bob Watts

Jessica Perritt

nwmo

NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

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DES DÉCHETS
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**Record of Discussion
NWMO Council of Elders
Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, Toronto, ON
March 04-06, 2015**

Attendees:

NWMO Council of Elders:

Chair: Donna Augustine

Members: Angus Gardiner, Diane Longboat, Grace Manitouwabi, George Morin, Leslie Perley, Joseph Poitras, , Billie Schibler, Roland St.Germain, Billy Two Rivers, Gordon Williams, Shavonne Custer, Peshaanakwut Kinew, Brandon Petehtegoose, Rayanna Seymour, Norman Stagg, Rebekah Wilson

Advisors: Joanne Barnaby, Fred Kelly, Melanie Hadley

Community Guests:

Chief Isadore Day, Serpent River First Nation

Dave Courchene, Turtle Lodge Founder, Anishnabe Nation

Elder David Charles, Ginoogaming First Nation

Elder Ken Meawasige, Serpent River First Nation

Deputy Grand Chief Goyce Kakegamic, Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Grand Chief Mike Mitchell, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

Judy Rasevych, Ginoogaming First Nation

Jason Rasevych, Ginoogaming First Nation

Tara Levi, Senior Advisor, AFN Regional Chief NB PEI

NWMO:

Board of Directors: Ron Jamieson

Staff: Ben Belfadhel, Jo-Ann Facella, Joe Gaboury, Derek Wilson Raymond Hatfield, Joe Heil, Ross Holden, Jake Linklater, Ken Nash, Sara Neuert, Jessica Perritt, Devi Shantilal, Kathryn Shaver, Bob Watts, Derek Wilson

Thursday March 05, 2015

Opening Ceremony and Welcome Remarks

Elder Fred Kelly opened the Council of Elders Meeting with a ceremony in honour of Elder Adolph Rasevych. Participants shared in the offering of blueberries and tobacco. Brandon Petehtegoose shared a song. Elder Adolph Rasevych's family was presented with a gift in his memory.

Welcome remarks were then provided by Ken Nash followed by Kathryn Shaver and Bob Watts.

Ken Nash acknowledged the traditional territory of the First Nations and Métis community in which the meeting was held. He thanked Elder Fred Kelly for the ceremony and Brandon Petehtegoose for the song. He welcomed guest Deputy Grand Chief Kakegamic, Elder David Charles and all the meeting participants.

He stated that the progress NWMO has made over the years is encouraging but that there will be more challenges in the upcoming year. As focus narrows down and intensifies, more questions and scrutiny is

anticipated. He noted that NWMO is trying its best to incorporate the advice received from the Council of Elders into practice.

He shared that NWMO has learned a lot from the Council of Elders over the years. He noted that NWMO's method of working with the Aboriginal people is being commended as the "gold standard" amongst meetings he has attended.

Elder Donna Augustine thanked Ken Nash and noted that it was nice that NWMO's work is being recognized as "gold standard".

Kathryn Shaver acknowledged the traditional territory of the First Nations and Métis community in which the meeting was held. She thanked Elder Fred Kelly and Brandon Petehtegoose. She thanked Judy Rasevych for making it possible for Adolph to participate on the Council of Elders. She also thanked and welcomed the guests attending the meeting. She noted that during the course of the meeting, NWMO will provide an update regarding the site selection process including the safety aspects.

Bob Watts thanked Elder Fred Kelly for the ceremonies and introduced Joe Gaboury, Director Aboriginal Relations and Joe Heil, Senior Engagement Advisor with the Aboriginal Relations department. He shared that there was an overwhelming amount of interest from NWMO staff from other departments when Elder Donna Augustine was part of providing NWMO staff Cultural Awareness Training held in February.

He thanked the staff of Aboriginal Relations department for their work during the past year noting that work done from the corporate office is not always visible. He also acknowledged the work done by the Elders and the Youth and thanked them for sharing their wisdom and knowledge.

Report from Elders

Elder Donna Augustine shared the discussion from the previous day regarding the role of Youth and that they would take notes when the Council of Elders meet on their own. She noted that spirituality was important and proposed that in future meetings a half day should be set aside for a talking circle. She elaborated that they discussed matters that they deemed important such as missing and murdered Aboriginal women along with matters such as the involvement of Council of Elders members during field activities such as "Walking the Land" or community events.

Elder Donna Augustine noted that the Council of Elders' would like to be more involved in policymaking. She suggested that NWMO should establish scholarships and bursaries in memory of Elders that have passed away. She noted that NWMO should think about the Youth being compensated equally for their time and input. She noted that the Youth want to design a system to track the devolvement of the Indigenous Knowledge Policy and they want to establish an internal working group to follow up on recommendations and external working group to include a spiritual dimension.

It was discussed that the Youth would like to explore the potential for summer internships with NWMO. She emphasized that perhaps, meetings should be held over weekends to avoid conflict with the education of the Youth who are enrolled in academic institutions.

Joanne Barnaby presented recommendations from the Council of Elders gathering noting that members would like to be advised of plans for NWMO related community meetings in their respective areas. They

advised that NWMO should invite the Council Member(s) to those community sessions within their area in order to hear directly from communities and to share what they hear with the rest of the Council.

She provided a summary of the working groups/projects that the Youth members will work on as enlisted below:

1. Initiate scholarship or bursary or internships initiative- explore possibilities with Suzuki and other foundations to partner with who share our values to support access to indigenous knowledge and to develop a joint management plan.
2. Create a tracking system to capture concerns, recommendations and to capture NWMO responses using easy to use technology.
3. Review Niigani report and minutes from Council of Elders and bring forward concerns.

Furthermore, the Council members urged the NWMO to consider alternatives to Deep Geological Repository (DGR) noting that NWMO should consider the need to demonstrate a real commitment of finding alternatives. The Council would like reports of what investments NWMO is making in alternatives and then to learn more about each alternative. She stated that the Council of Elders would like to do research to help develop a concept paper that would identify questions that could be posed in ceremonies. Concluded that vacancies on the Council of Elders for Youth and Elders should be filled within three months.

The importance of inviting members of Council of Elders to open houses was discussed at length. Bob Watts acknowledged the recommendations and the progress made by NWMO due to participation of the Elders at meetings and open houses.

It was discussed that when Elders are not invited to meetings that the Council of Elders members in that area should be informed that a meeting is occurring. Bob Watts committed to following up on this matter.

Report from the Youth – Youth

The Youth presented their objective- “The objective of the Youth component of the NWMO Council of Elders is to:

- Be actively involved in the Council of Elders meetings and opportunities to provide an Indigenous Youth perspective to the Adaptive Phased Management Process.
- Participate in events to engage and share our knowledge about the NWMO Council of Elders and the Adaptive Phased Management Process. These events will be chosen collectively between the Council of Elders, Youth and the NWMO.

Thereafter, they shared their feedback of the dry storage tour at Pickering Waste Management Facility. They noted that the interim storage seemed safe and that it enhanced their understanding. They indicated that it was interesting and overall a positive experience. It was mentioned that it felt much safer than mine sites and had less occupational health and safety hazards. It was mentioned that the tour guide was open to answering their questions and they were able to discuss it amongst themselves later on. They expressed a desire to participate in a more comprehensive tour. The Youth presented a video of their team building activity and everyone enjoyed it.

Ken Nash and Bob Watts thanked the youth for the presentation and the video. Bob Watts apologized for not being able to meet with the Youth for debriefing after the tour due to the weather conditions that delayed his travel back to Toronto. He committed to setting up another meeting with the Youth.

Review Draft Indigenous Knowledge Policy – Sara Neuert and Joanne Barnaby

The revised draft Indigenous Knowledge Policy with markups was provided to all the meeting attendees. Sara Neuert noted that edits suggested by the Council of Elders had been incorporated and that further edits could be sent in to herself/Joanne Barnaby. She noted that draft policy will be shared with Aboriginal communities and organizations.

Fisherman's Powwow

Elder Donna Augustine introduced Tara Levi, Senior Advisor of the Regional Chief of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Tara Levi presented an overview of the Fishermen's Pow-wow held annually in Miramichi, New Brunswick. She extended an invitation to the NWMO Council of Elders to attend the 2015 Fishermen's Pow-wow on June 30th and July 01st 2015. It was discussed that the Council of Elders meeting dates for July had already been booked according to everyone's availability. NWMO thanked Tara Levi for the kind invitation.

Turtlelodge

Fred Kelly introduced Dave Courchene, the founder of Turtle Lodge. Dave Courchene spoke about importance of sweat ceremonies. He noted that Aboriginal Youth should be encouraged to follow their traditions. He invited NWMO Council of Elders to the Turtle Lodge Nibi Water Gathering on June 04th and 05th in Manitoba. He spoke about the destiny amongst Aboriginal people and shared the dream that inspired him to build the Turtle Lodge. A discussion regarding the role of grand-mothers followed. NWMO thanked Dave Courchene for the invitation.

Alternative Fuel Cycles – Derek Wilson

Derek Wilson reviewed the requirements of Nuclear Fuel Waste Act (2002) and the findings of NWMO Study (2002-2005). He discussed alternative fuel cycles and noted that the Government, by order in Council, selected the APM approach. Ken Nash noted that even if countries are reprocessing used fuel there will still remain high level radioactive waste that will need to be managed. He further discussed the APM project and the International Repository Development.

Questions were raised throughout the presentation, Derek Wilson and Ken Nash provided responses:

- Were all decisions made by the government in Finland and what was the criteria for selection in Finland?
- Were environmental concerns and storage space requirement considerations taken into account during the assessment of hosting a deep geological repository versus reprocessing?
- Does reprocessing used fuel turn it into low level waste?
- Is high level waste used for submarines and mills?
- Can high level waste be irradiated via partitioning and transmutation?
- A participant asked about the difference between CANDU reactors and light water reactors.
- Is the waste in the tailing ponds for uranium mines in Saskatchewan high level radioactive waste?
- Has the location of the deep geological repository in Finland impacted Finland's Indigenous peoples?

- Why are Finland and Sweden ahead of us?
- If small countries cannot find a place to store their nuclear used fuel, will they look to North America to store their used nuclear fuel?
- Are there any used fuel repositories in operation currently?
- How will we prevent ISIS from blowing up a used fuel transportation trailer?
- Will there be ongoing research to explore solutions for neutralizing used nuclear fuel?
- How much consultation was undertaken with the Indigenous peoples in Finland?
- Will any other country accept our waste?
- Is Saskatchewan interested in reprocessing used nuclear fuel?
- What are the different fuel cycles- what are the similarities and differences of each?
- Does each country work independently or do countries collaborate to address potential future proliferation issues?
- How different is high level waste from used nuclear fuel? Does reprocessing make it more volatile?

APM Update and Overview of Step 3 Phase 2 – Kathryn Shaver and Ben Belfadhel

Kathryn Shaver provided update of the site selection process. Ben Belfadhel presented overview of the findings of the phase 1 studies and the findings for Creighton and Schreiber. Meeting participants asked questions which were addressed by Ben Belfadhel:

- Will Bruce group communities exit because they are close to water if the same is concluded for the OPG low and intermediate level waste repository?
- Are the fractures in Creighton due to the earthquakes in northern Saskatchewan?
- What is the plan for the next few years?
- Will it be possible for additional communities to enter into the siting process?
- What are the considerations for site selection? – Is access to minerals (mining activities) within the area a criteria?
- Is there any flexibility on the timeline for the APM project?
- If we cannot construct the deep geological repository by 2035, how much room is there within the current dry storage facilities for accommodating additional used nuclear fuel?
- What is the date for decommissioning of the reactors?
- With the construction of new power plants or extension of existing reactors there will be more used nuclear fuel. Is there a plan to increase the size of the deep geological repository?

Aboriginal Acknowledgement Fund – Bob Watts

Bob Watts noted that the Council of Elders' advice was being implemented by NWMO. He shared that NWMO is planning to launch a program for the acknowledgement of Aboriginal communities and organizations that have contributed to the APM process. He shared that this flowed from NWMO's principle to ensure that communities are better off for having participated in the process. He indicated that the communities and organizations will have the flexibility to use the funds towards well-being initiatives.

General discussion regarding the APM project and Siting process ensued. It was discussed that Creighton had to be screened out of the Siting process due to geological reasons. Ray Hatfield shared that the APM project brought Schreiber and Pays Play First Nation together.

Elder David Charles thanked everyone for the invitation. A participant shared that as work gets more intense there will be people who will try to break the momentum. It was suggested that NWMO should continue to focus on its work noting that it doesn't matter what others think, what matters most is knowing that we did our best.

Elder Fred Kelly thanked everyone. The meeting was then adjourned for the day.

Friday March 06, 2015

Opening Ceremony and Welcome Remarks

Elder Fred Kelly performed the opening ceremony and Brandon Petehtegoose shared a song.

Closing Ceremony and Comments

The meeting participants discussed the importance of balance and harmony and it was noted that sometimes the Youth and female members of the Council of Elders do not get the chance to share their thoughts. It was suggested that a speakers list should be compiled. It was also recommended to have a process for inviting guests to the Council of Elders meetings.

Due to time constraints the "Community Well-being" and "Community of communities" discussions were postponed to the next meeting. The meeting was then adjourned.

Next Steps:

- NWMO to set up a process for inviting guest to Council of Elders meetings
- Planning for next Council of Elders meeting
- NWMO to plan for filling vacant positions on the Council of Elders and Youth sub committee
- Track the participation of Council of Elders members in other NWMO events
- NWMO to follow-up with paper written on transmutation and permutation
- Bob committed to schedule a meeting with the Youth
- NWMO to send link of the movie "Uranium" to Elder Les Perley
- NWMO to circulate draft Indigenous Knowledge Policy to Aboriginal communities and organizations for consideration and feedback

Date notes taken: March 05-06, 2015

This note was prepared by staff and has not been approved and/or reviewed for accuracy by other meeting participants.

Note: (if applicable) - the NWMO answered all questions during the meeting.