

Council of Elders and Youth

Record of Discussion #18

APM-REP-00676-0210

July 2017

Jessica Perritt

nwmo

NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES

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NWMO Council of Elders and Youth
Sheraton Centre Toronto
July 6-7, 2017

Attendees:

NWMO Council of Elders and Youth

Chair: Donna Augustine and Rayanna Seymour

Members: Augus Gardiner, Diane Longboat, Grace Manitowabi, George Morin, Dorothy Parenteau, Billie Schibler, Gordon Williams, Debbie Plain, Verna Porter-Brunelle, Shavonne Custer, Brandon Petahtegoose, Norman Stagg, Madison Levi, Jeff Kinew

Advisors: Joanne Barnaby, Fred Kelly, Melanie Hadley

NWMO:

Staff: Laurie Swami, Bob Watts, Jessica Perritt, Joe Gaboury, Raymond Hatfield, Arthur Moore, Greg Plain, Ross Holden, Goyce Kakegamic

Guests:

Ron Jamieson, Dean Jacobs, David Charles, Willie Pine, Theresa Hall, Nekan Williams

Thursday, July 6, 2017

Joint Council of Elders and Youth and Board of Directors Meeting

The Council of Elders and Youth had a joint meeting with the Board of Directors, which was opened by ceremony that acknowledged Bob Watts for his recent appointment of Vice-President, Indigenous Relations. The ceremony was followed by a talking circle that allowed everyone to share their feelings and thoughts around reconciliation. To conclude the meeting, the Council presented 10 recommendations to the Board of Directors and NWMO staff regarding how the NWMO can contribute to reconciliation. The joint meeting between the Council and Board of Directors was a success with both groups agreeing that they would like to meet annually. The 10 recommendations are as follows:

1. Embed Indigenous staff beyond the Indigenous Relations and Aboriginal Engagement teams, look at hiring Indigenous staff within the legal department and technical departments.
2. Utilize the Elders and Youth to support NWMO staff with regards to understanding how to interweave Indigenous Knowledge and western science.

3. Work towards knowledge equity amongst Indigenous science and western science to ensure that both knowledge systems are valued and respected the same within decision-making processes.
4. Continue with staff cultural awareness training sessions. Session topics should include Indigenous rights, history and jurisdiction. Training sessions need to be measured both quantitatively and qualitatively to determine if behavioural change is happening.
5. The NWMO should provide opportunities for staff to connect with the land to help them better understand Indigenous stewardship to protect the land. At the same time, the Council of Elders and Youth need to work to define their belief of spiritual connection to the land in order to help staff better understand that connection.
6. As the NWMO works towards being an organization that is actively and effectively engaging in reconciliation, the NWMO needs to develop ways measuring reconciliation both quantitatively and qualitatively.
7. The NWMO needs to define their role as a partner to communities involved in the site selection process.
8. The NWMO needs to define what consent means within the site selection process.
9. The NWMO needs to work towards addressing/acknowledging legacy issues that exist amongst First Nation and Métis communities involved in the site selection process.
10. Annual meeting between the Council of Elders and Youth and the Board of Directors.
Upcoming meeting to include a joint ceremony on the land with the Council of Elders and Youth and Board of Directors to help create a collective vision.

Aboriginal Engagement Update

Ray Hatfield provided an update of his work in the North of Huron Region. In Sagamok Anishnawbek, they held an opening ceremony to begin the geoscience and environmental fieldwork happening in Sagamok's traditional territory during the summer months. The opening ceremony included Sagamok Lands and Resources technical staff, Elders, NWMO staff, geoscience contractors and environmental contractors. As part of Sagamok's work with the NWMO, they have hired a coordinator and field staff technician, are attending the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) Learning and Sharing Gathering, participated in Nuclear 101 training, are looking at opportunities to build youth capacity, and are participating in the NWMO fieldwork. The fieldwork will conclude with a closing ceremony and tour of McMaster research reactor, and hosting a learning and sharing session in the fall. ELNOS People Achieving Life Skills (PALS) youth are also learning from the fieldwork happening in Sagamok's traditional territory, are attending a dry storage tour in the summer, as well as are attending all the Elliot Lake and Blind River community liaison committees.

Goyce Kakegamic presented a youth initiative plan to the Council titled “Youth Empowerment Initiatives Project.” The project included a workbook and video to help youth learn about the NWMO, nuclear power and the Adaptive Phased Management site selection process in a culturally appropriate way.

Greg Plain shared his work with Walpole Island First Nation and Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Both communities are preparing for open houses, but now in the capacity of neighbouring communities since Central Huron has been screened out the site selection process. The surrounding First Nation will still be involved in the process of learning as neighbouring communities to South Bruce and Huron-Kinloss.

Ross Holden reported on his engagement with Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). The NWMO will be attending their annual general assembly scheduled for August. This year, MNO would like to take a different approach in their engagement strategy. Some events in the planning stages are open houses, event in Kenora with the Used Fuel Transportation Package, leadership information session in Toronto, Oakville facility tour, transportation update, dry storage tour, and MNO Youth project. MNO has been a community identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) as a community to consult with for borehole drilling in the northwestern Ontario region. The NWMO provided funding to MNO for traditional land use study for northwestern Ontario, which will feed into the NWMO’s work plan.

Jessica Perritt presented on behalf of Joe Heil for the Ignace/WLON area. WLON has identified work they would like to do in conjunction with borehole drilling, and the NWMO is working to support that work. WLON is hosting a learning and sharing gathering on July 12-13 in which the gathering will be focused on the protection of water. WLON, the NWMO and the CNSC will be presenting at this gathering, which is open to all Treaty #3 communities. The NWMO is working to meet with the other communities that have been identified by MNRF as communities that need to be consulted with as part of borehole drilling activities.

Friday, July 7, 2017

Water Discussion

Andre Vorauer and Jessica Perritt made a presentation on water to be presented at the WLON Learning and Sharing Gathering. The presentation reviewed the very different time scales associated with the movement of water above ground compared to the time scales associated with movement of water below ground, including reasons why. Overall, the presentation was well-received.

Questions/Comments:

- Humans and animals should be included as part of the water cycle slide
- Liked the graphics and that the presentation did not include a lot of text, but rather spoke to the pictures
- A follow-up presentation should include how water moves through a deep geological repository

Next Meeting

- Jessica will reach out to the Council for potential dates for a fall meeting
- Jessica to coordinate an orientation/learn more session for new members
- Group likes the idea of doing a “blanket exercise” when they meet with the Board next
- Next meeting with the Board should include ceremony on the land (potentially Peterborough pictographs)
- Next meeting material should include a map with interested communities and the surrounding First Nation and Métis communities

Closing Ceremony

Fred Kelly closed meeting with a closing invocation.

Date notes taken: July 6-7, 2017

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