

Council of Elders and Youth

Record of Discussion #21

APM-REP-00676-0213

July 2018

Jessica Perritt

nwmo

NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES

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NWMO Council of Elders and Youth
Kingbridge Conference Centre, King City, ON
July 17-18, 2018

Attendees:

NWMO Council of Elders and Youth

Chair: Donna Augustine and Norman Stagg

Members: Angus Gardiner, Diane Longboat, Grace Manitowabi, Dorothy Parenteau, Billie Schibler, Roland St. Germain, Debbie Plain, Theresa Hall, Verna Porter-Brunelle, Madison Levi, Jeff Kinew, Rebekah Wilson

Advisors: Joanne Barnaby, Fred Kelly, Melanie Hadley

NWMO: Ben Belfadhel, Lisa Frizzell, Michael Hung, Georgina Kossivas, Jennifer Spragge, Doug Taylor, Bob Watts, Derek Wilson, Boye Abdul, Donna Chief, Alejandro Covarrubias, Jack Falkins, Joe Gaboury, Bradley Hammond, Joe Heil, Kaitlyn Levy, Kevin Muloin, Arthur Moore, Gillian Morris, Jessica Perritt, Greg Plain, James Wager

Board of Directors: Carlo Crozzoli, Mark Elliott, Lesley Gallinger, Ron Jamieson, Darren Murphy, Josée Pilon, Janet Rieksts-Alderman, Wayne Robbins, Laurie Swami

Guests: Devlin Fernandes, David Flood, Brittany Jones, Zack Simon

Tuesday July 17, 2018

Opening Ceremony and Welcoming Remarks

Elder Fred Kelly conducted a ceremony to begin the meeting which included a Pipe ceremony and a female Elder to speak to the water. The ceremony also included a drum song done by one of the female Elders.

Introductions were made around the room by all in attendance. The Chair called on President and CEO Laurie Swami to make remarks. She did so acknowledging the traditional lands of the Indigenous people of the area who had occupied the lands in which the meeting was being held. Laurie Swami provided an update on what she has been involved in since the April meeting. She updated the group on the EDRAM conference in Toronto where agreements of cooperation were signed with other countries. She also provided an update of her recent visit to Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) and meeting with the WLON Women's Circle during that trip. Laurie spoke about the importance of getting to know the communities involved in the siting process and was particularly impressed with a 3D DRG model

constructed by three young ladies in Wabigoon which utilized substantial detail and showed a good understanding of Adaptive Phased Management and the Deep Geological Repository.

Ben Belfadhel spoke briefly about his role in the process and that he is gaining a better understanding of Indigenous communities and the importance of their involvement in the process. Bob Watts spoke of his thanks to the staff who worked behind the scene to make the Council meetings such a success and that he values the Council reminding the NWMO of the spiritual side of the project not just the scientific side. He advised that he was looking forward to the reconciliation document that would be unveiled the next day.

Approaches to Developing Regional Collaborations Presentation

The presentation was done collaboratively by Wahkohtowin Development GP Inc. and Ecotrust Canada. The focus on the regional collaboration was on the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve. The Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs' Forum (NSRCF) established a goal for people in a region to share their lands and resources and to be part of designing development in order to benefit adjacent communities as a first priority. Wahkohtowin Development was born from 10 years of geopolitical activity by NSRCF with a mission statement to advance an inclusive, regional and collaborative approach to economic development that enhances social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being for the long term health and prosperity of the Northeast Superior Region. With regard to advancing the regional collaboration in the Northeast Superior Region there has been sector level engagement and consultation on Forestry, Energy, Mining and others. There has been involvement in ownership and management of land and resource use, jurisdiction and resource revenue and benefit sharing. There has also been collaboration, partnership & participation across the region. Focus has also been on reconciliation and growing human capital through a Guardianship Program. He also discussed some milestones for his proposed work with NWMO including a blueprint for engagement, implementation plan for working with communities and stakeholders, peer review, workshop to finalize the plan and final plan rollout. He spoke of input from the Council including how this might advance a reconciliation agenda. Overall the presentation was well received.

Comments/Questions:

- One Elder said they were happy to hear this presentation and that we need more people working on these initiatives to keep the government accountable and continue protecting and preserving the land and its resources.
- One Elder expressed concern that natural law and spiritual law were not part of the presentation. David Flood indicated that the guardianship program with youth might address some of the Elders concerns.
- One Elder advised that they needed to ensure connection to the ancestors was recognized.

Journey of Water – Teachings from Mother Earth about Water and Clay

This was a follow up to The Journey of Water Part 1 made to the Council last year. Jessica Perritt advised that it was presented and developed with the assistance of the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation Women's Circle and was still in draft form to also receive advice from the Council of Elders and Youth. The purpose of the presentation was to show how NWMO is learning from Mother Earth about the special properties of clay through natural analogs and how those special properties apply to the safe long-term management of used nuclear fuel. These examples show how clay has preserved many substances in nature for thousands, if not millions of year, from the influence of water. The presentation was well received from the group and Jessica Perritt advised they would welcome any additional feedback as they moved to finalize the presentation.

Comments/Questions:

- Impressed how effective clay and copper work together and how that applies to the DGR.
- Will NWMO be learning about local clays in the areas they are working?

Indigenous Engagement Team Update

The Indigenous Engagement team shared an overview of the work they have been doing in the field with First Nation and Metis communities involved in the site selection process.

Wednesday July 18, 2018

Reconciliation Statement Ceremony

The NWMO Reconciliation statement was finalized in a ceremony. The ceremony included members of the Council of Elders and Youth, NWMO Board of Directors and was led by Elder Fred Kelly. Elements of the ceremony included a Pipe ceremony, food offering, a honor song for Board member Ron Jamieson and a traditional blanket exchanged between the Chair of the Board of Directors and the Chair of the Council of Elders and Youth. Each participant signed the Reconciliation statement and also offered tobacco to the sacred fire; both of which were done to signify the western way and the Indigenous ways of doing business. The Reconciliation Statement acknowledges the historical wrongs in Canada's past and the need to create a better future by addressing the challenges of today, this sentiment was reflected in the ceremony.

Sharing Circle

Bob Watts facilitated a sharing circle amongst the NWMO Board of Directors, NWMO executive team and the Council of Elders and Youth. The focus of the sharing circle was.

- What actions should NWMO undertake to show it is serious about reconciliation?
- What do you think reconciliation will look like at NWMO 10 years from now?

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be October 17-19, venue TBD

Closing Ceremony

Fred Kelly closed the meeting with closing invocation.

Date notes taken: July 17-18, 2018

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