

# Council of Elders

## Record of Discussion #13

**APM-REP-00676-0205**

**December 2015**

**Kathryn Shaver  
Bob Watts  
Jessica Perritt**

**nwmo**

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NWMO

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**Record of Discussion**  
**NWMO Council of Elders**  
**Kingbridge Conference Centre, King City, ON**  
**December 12-14, 2015**

**Attendees:**

**NWMO Council of Elders:**

Chair: Donna Augustine & Madison Levi

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

Advisors: Joanne Barnaby, Fred Kelly, Melanie Hadley

**NWMO:**

Staff: Bob Watts, Jessica Perritt, Joe Gaboury

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**Saturday December 12, 2015**

**Opening Ceremony and Welcome Remarks**

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Elder Fred Kelly and Youth members opened the Council of Elders Meeting with a ceremony.

Welcome remarks were then provided by Donna Augustine and Bob Watts.

The purpose of the meeting was for the Elders and Youth to meet on their own to discuss a purpose of their declaration and provide advice on the annual review of the NWMO Council of Elders Terms of Reference.

Bob asked the Elders to review the NWMO Council of Elders Terms of Reference as part of the annual review and particularly provide advice on how NWMO can maintain a national and community balance on the Council of Elders. Bob also noted that the draft of the Terms of Reference included in their workbooks includes changes that were suggested at the October meeting. The most significant change were the changes suggested by the Youth to include a Youth Co-chair. All changes have been noted in red for easy review. Bob also recognized that is important to have change and to refresh the Council and just as important to maintain some consistency. Bob also recognized that being a member on the Council of Elders has a steep learning curve and NWMO does not want to be in a constant state of training when thinking about implementing change to the membership.

The Elders asked Bob for clarification on what the timeframe is to finalize the review of the Terms of Reference and also what the approval process is for the Terms of Reference. Bob responded that NWMO

was looking to finalize the Terms of Reference after the next Council of Elders meeting and that the Terms of Reference would have to go to NWMO executive and get final approval from the NWMO CEO and President.

Bob provide a verbal update that Finland has recently received a license for construction of a DGR and this will be the first DGR constructed internationally. The Elders requested more information regarding the license requirements for the DGC in Finland and the involvement of the Indigenous People from their siting process.

Bob Watts and Jessica Perritt excused themselves from the meeting and let the Elders know that they will be joining them on Monday December 14<sup>th</sup> to hear back from the Elders and Youth.

Elders & Youth meet on their own for the remainder of the day.

### **Sunday December 13, 2015**

Council of Elders and Youth meet on their own for the day.

### **Monday December 14, 2015**

Bob Watts, Jessica Perritt, Joe Gaboury and Angela Ciccotelli join the Elders & Youth. Angela introduces herself and her new role with the Aboriginal Relations Department.

#### **Report from Elders**

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Diane Longboat drafted a Council of Elders Declaration of Purpose that came to her from ceremony. The Purpose of the Declaration is meant to be a statement of purpose that the Elders and Youth can talk to when asked what their role on the Council and why they feel it is important to advise the NWMO on its work. There was some input to the Purpose of Declaration from the Elders and the Youth that Diane will incorporate and bring to the next Council of Elders Meeting.

Before the Council provided feedback on the Council of Elders Terms of Reference they asked for clarity from Bob Watts on who the Council of Elders Terms of Reference belonged to; NWMO or the Council of Elders. Bob clarified that the Terms of Reference is a NWMO document but is important to NWMO that the Council of Elders feels comfortable with the Terms of Reference. One Elder suggested that the Terms of Reference is more like a working relationship between the NWMO and the Council of Elders. Another Elder asked the members to remember that their role on the Council is to advise the NWMO not to dictate or be administrators.

The Council of Elders and Youth would like to nominate a small committee to provide advice to NWMO on the Council of Elders Terms of Reference. After much discussion it was decided that each member would nominate a female Elder, male Elder, female Youth and male Youth for the committee. All members would send their nominations to Jessica Perritt. Jessica will tally all

nominations and inform the Council who the committee will be. The committee would meet before the next Council of Elders meeting and the newest draft of the Terms of Reference will be discussed at the next meeting.

There were two sections within the Terms of Reference that generated a lot of discussion when the Elders and Youth met on their own. First, the section on remuneration, some Elders thought that how much they received in honorarium was NWMO business and did not need to be included in a public document. Other Elders felt that something needed to be included in this section to show equality amongst the Elders and show transparency. Bob Watts suggested that the section could simply include that Elders and Youth are compensated according to NWMO Policy, as their honorarium amounts are part of NWMO Policy. NWMO would then in turn share this Policy with all Council of Elders members. All members agreed that this would be a good change to the Terms of Reference.

The second issue within the Terms of reference that cause a lot of discussion was the section on appointment and replacement of the members. There was a lot of discussion about what the length of the term to ensure change and growth amongst the Council but also to maintain consistency. There were also an idea discussed that maybe the “National Council of Elders” could be reduced to 8 members and this could allow for a “Regional Council of Elders” to be created which could allow for local advice from Elders in communities that NWMO is working in. Another comment from one of the Elders was that, restructuring of the Council of Elders is a NWMO decision since the Terms of Reference is their document. There was no consensus on the length of the term or the number of members. It was decided that this is something the smaller committee would work on with the NWMO and it would be presented at the next Council of Elders meeting.

Some other suggestions came from the Youth members regarding the time effectiveness of the meetings. First, it was suggested that the Council of Elders meetings could include breakout sessions into smaller working groups to ensure all voices are heard. It was also suggested that the Chairs could do a better job of getting consensus form the group to help move agenda items along. One Elders suggested that maybe NWMO needs to be more firm with the group as the group has a tendency to over talk issues.

Jessica Perritt asked the Elders and Youth to look into March 1-3, 2016 as a potential next meeting date and respond to her via email.

#### **Next Steps:**

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- Diane Longboat will re-draft the Council of Elders Purpose of Declaration and bring to the next meeting
- The Elders requested and update on the Finland license requirements
- Jessica Perritt will email all members regarding nominations for the Terms of Reference sub-committee
- Terms of Reference sub-committee will meet before the next meeting
- The Elders & Youth will email/call Jessica Perritt regarding their availability for March 1-3, 2016

- NWMO will incorporated the suggested change to the Remuneration section of the Terms of Reference for the sub-committee meeting

## **Closing Ceremony**

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Elder Fred Kelly performed the closing ceremony. The meeting was adjourned thereafter.

*Date notes taken: December 12-14, 2015*

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