

Council of Elders and Youth

Record of Discussion #16

APM-REP-00676-0208

November 2016

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 and Youth
Kingbridge Conference Centre & Institute
November 19-21, 2016

Attendees:

NWMO Council of Elders

Chair: Donna Augustine and Jeff Kinew

Members: Augus Gardiner, Diane Longboat, Grace Manitowabi, George Morin, Dorothy Parenteau, Debbie Plain, Billie Schibler, Roland St. Germain, Gordon Williams, Shavonne Custer, Brandon Petahtegoose, Rebekah Wilson, Norman Stagg, Madison Levi, Rayanna Seymour-Hourie

Advisors: Joanne Barnaby, Fred Kelly, Melanie Hadley

NWMO:

Staff: Laurie Swami, Bob Watts, Derek Wilson, Jessica Perritt, Joe Gaboury, Jamie Matear

Guests:

Ron Jamieson, Dean Jacobs, David Charles, Willie Pine

Saturday November 19, 2016

Opening Ceremony and Welcome Remarks

Elder Fred Kelly provided a ceremony to begin the Council of Elder's meeting which included a Pipe ceremony, Healing story, Wellness prayer and memorial, and Eagle Whistle presentation.

Following a round of introductions, a Welcoming Ceremony was conducted for ne member Debbie Plain from Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Debbie responded with comment and appreciation for the ceremony and appointment to the Council of Elders and Youth.

Chair Donna Augustine provided Opening Remarks.

Council Elders and Youth Orientation

The Youth met November 5-6, 2016 and developed and presentation on the Council of Elders and Youth as a way of orientation to new members to the Council. The Youth delivered the presentation.

NWMO Update

Bob Watts welcome Debbie Plain to the Council and guests Willie Pine and David Charles. He provide an update on Billy Two Rivers and discussed the idea of maybe having some honorary Elder positions on the Council to allow persons like Billy to still participate as he is able while also maintaining the guideline of 12 members as identified in the terms of reference.

Bob also provide an update on Kathryn Shavers retirement and said that we are still working on a way for the Council to say goodbye to Kathryn. He then informed the group that Laurie Swami was appointed as CEO and President and Wayne Robbins as Board of Directors Chair and that both of them would be joining the meeting on Monday. Bob said that this is a time for change within the NWMO and also amongst the Aboriginal Relations team. He noted that Devi Shantilal will be leaving the Aboriginal Relations team and NWMO is also looking to fill a Director position within the Aboriginal Relations team.

Bob provided an update that NWMO completed geoscience and environmental field work in Northwestern Ontario and North of Superior regions involved in the site selection process. He provide an update that NWMO will be participating in an international DGR conference in Paris in early December and NWMO will be sponsoring some folks from First Nation communities and municipalities involved in the site selection process. Bob brief the group that NWMO has recently started dialogues with United States Department of Energy and a tribal group that work with them. He discussed the idea of the Council of Elders and Youth meeting with Elders from this tribal group as a potential activity for 2017.

Bob informed the group that the NWMO Indigenous Policy was publically release on October 27th and thanked the Council for the contributions to the Policy. Bob also thanked the Elders and Youth that participated in the CNS conference held in Ottawa September 11-14, 2016. Bob noted that the nuclear industry noticed NWMO's work regarding Aboriginal Relations and Aboriginal contributions through the opening prayer, panel presentations, feast opening, drum song as well as First Nation and Metis participation at the conference.

Speed Teachings Volume II

The Youth then facilitated a group activity they called "speed teachings". The Elders were divided into 3 groups, they youth were teamed up in pairs of two each with a question to ask each of the 3 groups of Elders. The questions were:

- How do we hold NWMO accountable to incorporate advice received through Council Elders and Youth?
- What are mechanisms for the Council to demonstrate consensus to provide advice to NWMO?
- How Council of Elders and Youth measure successful implementation of their advice?

The Youth will be compiling the advice received from the Elders and reporting back at the next meeting.

Sunday November 20, 2016

NWMO Implementation Plan

Bob Watts presented on the strategic objectives of the 2017-2021 Implementation Plan which were:

- Build sustainable, long-term relationships with interested Canadians and Aboriginal peoples of Canada, and involve them in setting future directions
- Implement collaboratively with communities the process to select a suitable site
- Conduct testing to prove that engineered barriers meet all safety requirements and can be produced effectively and efficiently
- Continuously improve technical knowledge
- Establish safe, secure and socially acceptable plans for transporting used nuclear fuel
- Advance planning and capabilities for the construction and operation of the deep geological repository
- Ensure funds are available to pay for the safe, long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel
- Maintain an accountable governance structure

Bob then pointed out some of the highlights from the larger published Implementation Plan. Bob asked the Council to think about the Implementation plan during the Council's planning session. Bob also noted that the 2017-2021 Implementation is a draft and is out for comment and encouraged the Council to provide comment on the document. Comment could be submitted through Jessica Perritt.

There was a lot of discussion on the language difference between NWMO's Aboriginal Policy and Indigenous Knowledge Policy. The Council would like to have the discussion of the terms Aboriginal vs. Indigenous while they meet on their own and would provide some advice to NWMO. There also discussion on the Council working on how these Policies could complement each other and ideally be linked. It was suggested that the ethical framework guideline NWMO did in its early days would also complement both the Aboriginal Policy and the Indigenous Knowledge Policy. It was suggested this be an agenda item at the next Council of Elders and Youth meeting.

Questions and Comments:

- How communities that are not directly impacted will be involved in the process? Eg. Communities on the transportation route
- There should be a section within the Implementation plan called "Promises" with statements like: The projected will not process without partnership between the interested host communities, First Nations and surrounding communities.
- suggested that NWMO should be highlighting the work of Aboriginal Relations so that other organizations/industry can learn from NWMO
- Suggested that NWMO have more Aboriginal/Indigenous related communication material. This Elder attended the CNS Conference and although Aboriginal Relations was highlighted within the participation of the conference this was not reflected at the NWMO booth.
- Suggestion that the Council of Elders and Youth should meet at least once a year with the Board of Directors

Partnership Presentation

Bob provided a presentation on NWMO's thinking and commitments around Partnerships. The presentation focused on the following topics:

- NWMO's evolution in thinking around partnership
- Conclusions from Phase 1: The project will only proceed with the involvement of the interested community, First Nation and Metis communities in the area, and surrounding communities, working in partnership.
- Partnership objectives in Phase 2 objectives
- What we are hearing
- UNDP
- Partnership requirements to date

Bob also shared that along with safety Partnership is now a core requirements for the project. The presentation ended with 3 questions that Bob had asked the group to discuss while they met on their own:

1. Is NWMO on the right path to achieving partnership? Why?
2. Are there any other requirements NWMO is missing in order to achieving partnership
3. How does this relate to federal thinking about UNDRIP?

Questions/Comments:

- Duty to consult requires that both parties are responsible for consultation. The Crown hold the responsibility to consult and the Aboriginal people have a responsibility to be available for consultation
- How will NWMO measure partnership?
- Encourage the NWMO to utilize the Youth on the Council to be part of the planning process for capacity building
- Have any communities inquired about need/opportunities to build their capacity around Indigenous knowledge research development and tracking?
- There is a need now to start thinking how Indigenous Knowledge will be passed down to the young people and need to work on getting the school systems involved.
- Indigenous Knowledge is most effectively understood and transferred by watching and doing (experiencing).

Monday November 21, 2016

Welcoming Ceremony

Fred Kelly performed a welcoming ceremony for new CEO and President, Laurie Swami and new Chairman of the Board of Directors, Wayne Robbins. The ceremony consisted of a Pipe ceremony, prayer for the water provided by Diane Longboat, opening prayer provided by Grace Manitowabi and round table of introductions. Donna Augustine and Jeff Kinew presented Laurie and Wayne with a copy of the Declaration of the Keepers of the Land, on behalf of the Council of Elders and Youth followed by Diane Longboat reading the Declaration aloud. Bob Watts and Jessica offered a gift to Laurie and Wayne on behalf of the Council of Elders and Youth signifying their important role with the Council and NWMO. Fred closed the ceremony with a welcoming song. Laurie and Wayne both thanked Fred and the Council for the ceremony. Laurie then presented the Council with a talking stick, the gift was presented to Donna Augustine as the Council of Elders and Youth Chair.

Report from Council of Elders and Youth Gathering

The Elders and Youth provide a report back from their gathering in which they met on their own. The summary of comment/suggestions was as follows:

- The Council would like NWMO to consider a legacy video done to honor Billy Two Rivers and potentially the Council
- The Council discussed Aboriginal vs. Indigenous and at this time they prefer the word Indigenous but would like to discuss at the next meeting
- The group mentioned the importance of curriculum but also the importance of professional development to ensure teachers implement the curriculum effectively. The Council felt that any work done on curriculum development should focus on the whole energy spectrum and not just nuclear to ensure that it is not biased. The Council would like to learn more regarding curriculum development at the next meeting
- The Elders and Youth would like time at the next meeting to look at the Aboriginal Policy, Indigenous Knowledge Policy and Ethical Framework documents to start working on making them cohesive.

Talking Circle

Bob Watts introduced the talking circle. The subject of the talking circle was – What are key principles and values that support partnership?

Comments:

- Time pressures communities may face vs. time communities may require to build capacity. All parties involved need to be strong.
- The importance of the preparation work needed to be done in order for partnership to be successful. Preparation is important for both NWMO and the communities.

- The need to learn from the treaties and efforts need to be put into establishing a good foundation.
- Maintenance of capacity in order to sustain partnership.
- Focus on relationships because relationships are the foundation of partnership.
- NWMO needs to start on interweaving Indigenous relationships with municipal relationships.
- Respect, Relations and Reconciliation. Commitment for respect, openness and building relationships.
- Adaptiveness.
- Poverty exists because we have made bad choices. The need to respect Mother Earth and women and the advice they have to share.
- Reconciliation and the TRC recommendations, UNDRIP and education. NWMO is contributing to reconciliation. Easy part it to commit to reconciliation but the hard part is acting on it.
- Listening and speaking to understand and learning goes both ways. Listening is so important.
- Willingness for all parties and no need to rush.
- Adequate understanding of roles and responsibilities.

Talking circle was cut short due to time constraints. Will continue at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

- Jessica Perritt will reach out to the Elders and Youth with next meeting date options.
- The Elders and Youth would like time at the next meeting to look at the Aboriginal Policy, Indigenous Knowledge Policy and Ethical Framework documents to start thinking about how they can complement one another.
- Suggestion that the Elders and Youth meet in Montreal the New Year to be able to accommodate Billy Two Rivers.
- NWMO to provide a presentation on curriculum pilot project.
- Continue talking circle.

Closing Ceremony

Billy Two Rivers performed the closing prayer in his language via conference call Elder Fred Kelly performed pipe ceremony to close the meeting.

Date notes taken: November 19-21, 2016

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