



Matachewan First Nation Chief and Council Meeting MINUTES

Date and Time	July 11, 2023 @ 6:00 pm
Location	Log Building and Zoom
Chairperson	Tom Fox
Council Present	Jason Batisse, Adrian Boucher, Rachel Batisse, Tommy Fox, Chelsea Daley, Melanie Boucher
Council Regrets	
Council on Zoom	Clara Hanson, Elenore Hendrix, Lulu Jobson, Stan Fox
Recorder	Marilyn Groulx, Delta Flood
Staff	
Guest(s)	Adam St. Clair, Sarah Robinson, Mary Kelly, Krystal Aubry, Natasha Dombrowski, Tristan Flood
Related Documents/Reports	

Item #1 – Welcome and Call to Order	
Lead(s):	Tom Fox
Discussion:	Prayer by David Flood
Outcome:	Meeting opened at 6:14 pm

Item #2 – Presentation – Department of Fisheries, Environment Canada, Agnico Eagle	
Lead(s):	Adam St. Clair, Sarah Robinson, Mary Kelly, Krystal Aubry, Natasha Dombrowski
Discussion:	<p>Presented Macassa Mine’s North Tailings Storage Facility expansion plan (NTSF 20) Presented Kinross Pond Extension Project (Compensation Plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was a preliminary introduction, Council and members present would like to see it formerly introduced to the First Nation Community in a Community meeting which the proponent is willing and happy to do. • Alternate forms of tailing storage were looked into but no other options seemed feasible (including backfilling old mines) • The 20-year plan is based on life of mine milling around 1,000 tonnes/day. (Need 15 more years) • Verified that monitoring of air contaminates will be done to inform what types of mitigations may need to occur. <p>Overview of comments/questions from Band Members present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The presentation is not considered community consultation. • Would like to ensure they are using samples/expertise from Sudbury for construction/monitoring/closure. • Would like to ensure there is short-term/long-term monitoring and training for community members as well as ensure to engage youth (future workers) in process. • Would like to ensure regular communication and updates with C&C, staff, and membership. • Concern over the impacts to creeks being affected – the creeks are stated as ephemeral flow, but it was questioned if they would just have limited impact or do the creeks have further indirect reach than presumed. (Member to have conversations with Adam St. Clair regarding this.)
Outcome:	N/A

Break 7:38 to 8:05 PM

Item #3 – Member concern re: letter from MNRF limiting access to fishing on Lake Nipissing	
Lead(s):	Tristan Flood
Discussion:	<p>Band Member reached out to Chief & Council for support and direction regarding a letter stating he had no right to fish on Lake Nipissing and could/would be charged.</p> <p>In conversations with Regional Enforcer and his supervisor for Northeast Region he was told that as a member of MFN you can only hunt, fish or trap in his treaty area. It seemed to show aggression from the Crown to First Nation Peoples (possibly due to Robinson Huron Treaty settlement). Tristan thought it was important to bring to C&C since we should have rights in Robinson Huron Treaty. He is drafting a response stating he has rights and should not be stopped and would like support from the Band for community at large.</p> <p>Conversation ensued regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letting it go to Court and MFN paying for costs or write a letter from C&C supporting Tristan. • Andrew from Ministry stated in a personal conversation to a Councilor that if you have personal Traditional Land Use in Robinson Huron you should be able to fish there. • Band member stated that this is why he wanted TLE lands in Robinson Huron – to further protect our traditional land use there. He also has documentation stating our ancestors left MFN to go to Nipissing. His family hunted in Alberta and BC with only their status cards with no issues. (Seems only Ontario has Treaty enforcements.) • There is a unique opportunity to speak with Shawn Batisse (Deputy Minister of Indigenous Affairs) as he stated in a Facebook chatline that we should feel comfortable fishing on Lake Nipissing. C&C should have a conversation with Shawn & OKT Law to find out if Crown is becoming more aggressive. • Band member would like this to become a community discussion. • Suggested to get a letter of support from Nipissing First Nation for fishing rights but this is also viewed as backing down from our Aboriginal Rights. Other First Nations have submitted requests to MFN for hunting, but we have not required letters for fishing in the past. • This is a court case that needs to be challenged as well as have conversations with other First Nations regarding similar incidents. We should look over past Court Cases (that were settled prior to court) to see what kind of documentation stating some things that should be followed up. <p><i>Background information: Matachewan First Nation is physically within Robinson Huron Treaty lands but is a signatory to Treaty 9. Our Traditional Territory spans both treaty lands almost equally.</i></p>
Outcome:	<p>MOTION #2023-07-01</p> <p>MOTION to follow through in a diplomatic process with Shawn Batisse as Deputy Minister of Indigenous Affairs to enquire on the Crown’s current position and retract the letter or resolve the issue. If issue does not get resolved to support any band member through paying court costs for case.</p> <p>MOTIONED by Chelsea Daley SECONDED by Melanie Boucher All in Favour MOTION CARRIED</p>

Break 8:43 to 8:50 PM

Item #4 – June 20, 2023 Minutes approval	
Lead(s):	Tom Fox
Discussion:	It was noted that updated minutes were not distributed in the package. A new change was added. Delta to make revisions and re-send.
Outcome:	MOTION #2023-07-02 MOTION to have minutes for June 20, 2023 to deferred to be approved at next council meeting. MOTIONED by Chelsea Daley SECONDED by Lulu Jobson All in Favour MOTION CARRIED

Item #5 – MFN Agreements/Exploration Agreements.	
Lead(s):	
Discussion:	Councilor was wondering why the request to have exploration agreements forwarded to C&C has been put on hold. There was concern about the legalities of sharing the documents as IBA documents cannot leave the band office. Some Councilors felt being able to read them at the band office was good enough and other Councilors felt there should be some level of trust that Councilors will keep confidentiality. Received confirmation from Jason Batisse at Wabun that Exploration Agreements can go out but need to be kept confidential.
Outcome:	MOTION #2023-07-03 MOTION to have the Exploration Agreements sent to C&C through email by request with knowledge it is confidential to Council. MOTIONED by Rachel Batisse SECONDED by Clara Hanson All in Favour MOTION CARRIED

Item #6 – Harassment Policy/Social Media Policy	
Lead(s):	Tom Fox
Discussion:	Changes were to be forwarded to the Band Manager but email did not get sent, otherwise they are ready to sign. Marilyn to have changes made and final Policies ready for next meeting. Policies will be signed at next meeting.
Outcome:	N/A

Item #7 – Waste Management Update	
Lead(s):	Marilyn Groulx
Discussion:	Funding just came through to send waste to Elk Lake. Transportation will be done by current worker or Belinda. Requesting approval to order large bins for landfill (as per information in package).
Outcome:	MOTION #2023-07-04 MOTION to order Garbage Depot Bins and Gate for new landfill. MOTIONED by Rachel Batisse SECONDED by Melanie Boucher All in Favour MOTION CARRIED

Item #8 – Audit	
Lead(s):	Marilyn Groulx
Discussion:	Darlene has been in contact with a consultant to complete the Audits and is just waiting for dates. She is trying to get him at his earliest availability which should be in August. Councilor mentioned that with what is happening in the AFN it is even more important we can get these done as soon as possible for our members. Marilyn will update C&C as soon as she gets more information.
Outcome:	N/A

Item #9 – Flag	
Lead(s):	
Discussion:	A proposal to restore and case the original Treaty 9 flag for display in the Log Building was shared.
Outcome:	<p>MOTION #2023-07-05 MOTION to have a budget for restoration of the original Treaty 9 flag and an aluminum case of \$20,000. MOTIONED by Lulu Jobson SECONDED by Stan Fox All in Favour MOTION CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION #2023-07-06 MOTION to have Tom and Jamie Lee Batisse to explore funding/grant availability for the Flag Project. MOTIONED by Stan Fox SECONDED by Melanie Boucher All in Favour MOTION CARRIED</p>

Item #10 – Fire Route	
Lead(s):	
Discussion:	River route is not a valid option. If we open a road to Chief Lake we would have to go to the highway, which is no longer an option. Focus is to get route to Beaudin Lake on Hwy 566 which would be about 30 km. Lands & Resources has done preliminary work for culverts and pricing.
Outcome:	Lands & Resources Coordinator to come to next meeting to give a more detailed update.

Item #11 – Dragonfly Embroidery for Sale	
Lead(s):	Stan Fox
Discussion:	There is an option for MFN to purchase the Dragonfly Embroidery company. It was suggested to have the current owner, Emmylou Reed, to come and do a presentation to C&C. If purchased, a Councilor suggested setting it up in KL and possibly getting our own clothing line going. A Councilor was concerned this would go over our mandate as a non-profit entity and that the MFNLP should look into this. This will be verified, then request the LP to follow through if necessary.
Outcome:	<p>MOTION #2023-07-07 MOTION to have the owner of Dragonfly Embroider, Emmy Lou Reed to come in and do a presentation to C&C. MOTIONED by Rachel Batisse SECONDED by Clara Hanson All in Favour MOTION CARRIED</p>

Item #11 – Wawatay Newspaper	
Lead(s):	Marilyn Groulx
Discussion:	<p>Wawatay is requesting back pay for annual dues. A Councilor supports giving them the funds as it has been utilized by many members throughout the years. According to documents provided we were to pay \$500 in annual dues but have not. Band Manager to follow up to see if there was a contract.</p>
Outcome:	Deferred to next meeting

Item #11 – Forestry	
Lead(s):	Tom Fox
Discussion:	<p>There are issues with how our lands have been harvested. Agnico Eagle may lend a hand to do environmental studies on how the harvest methods is affecting our lands and wildlife. A band member would like to have a meeting with Land & Resources and Tom to explain what her company does and how she can help. Councilor requests to have the members bio sent in. Tom will follow up with credentials of member to C&C and have her follow up with more information as he receives it.</p>
Outcome:	N/A

Item #11 – Sweaters	
Lead(s):	Rachel Batisse
Discussion:	<p>It would be nice to have sweaters or t-shirts representing MFN for youth in sports (E.g. Little NHL) as they should have something to wear between games sporting MFN crest.</p> <p>Suggestion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to buy a bulk of sweaters and sell them at the First Nation, • to send them free of cost to all children and affiliate children, • to have the sent free of charge to all members, • to have them sent free of charge to all members and affiliate children and partners. <p>Options will be explored later prior to making a decision.</p> <p>Councilor suggested we should support Clara’s great niece in sports just as we have supported other band members in the past.</p>
Outcome:	<p>MOTION #2023-07-08 MOTION to support Maya Letellier the same as all our other youth who has participated in sports. MOTIONED by Stan Fox SECONDED by Elenore Hendrix All in Favour MOTION CARRIED</p>

Break at 9:55 pm

IN CAMERA
