

6. REQUESTS/DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Drinking Water Class Action

Darian Baskatawang, Class Council with Olthuis, Kleer, Townshend LLP, provided a brief power point presentation highlighting key elements of the Drinking Water Class Action Lawsuit. NFN was on a Drinking Water Advisory for the period of April 16, 2007, to February 20, 2015. Individuals are now able to submit a claim, however NFN will be submitting a list of all registered member who resided on reserve during the advisory. It is important to note that if an individual submits a claim, it will void any information NFN has submitted on their behalf.

Key points to note:

- Must be an NFN member and resided on NFN land from April 16, 2007, to February 20, 2015.
- If born prior to November 20, 1995, you can claim from November 20, 2013, to February 20, 2015. (This is a Federal Law on limitation periods)
- If born after November 20, 1995, you can claim the entire Water Advisory Period of April 16, 2007, to February 20, 2015. (Again, this is Federal Law on limitation periods)
- A member can claim for dependents or deceased family members if they meet the criteria.

The deadline for the claim period is March 7, 2023. No monies will be paid out until after the deadline.

More information and guidelines will be forwarded to NFN and this will be available to members via the NFN website and social media, or by contacting the office.

(b) Matrimonial Real Property

Member Tom Lambert requested to speak regarding the Matrimonial Real Property Law. He has previously provided Council with documentation regarding information he has obtained regarding this law. His concern is that the law is not protecting NFN members as it was intended to. Specifically, NFN member income when earned on reserve is not taxable, however, in a separation scenario, a members income is converted to taxable for the purposes of calculating support payments.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S):

(a) Election Signage Locations

Brendan provided Council with a recommendation for guidelines pertaining to Election Signage Locations. Twelve public locations have been identified where signage would be permitted and monitored for compliance. Council was in agreement.

8. REPORTS:

(a) Gimaa (Chief's) Report

Chief McLeod provided an update on his Council business over the last few weeks.

Hydro one – Negotiations for tax credits are underway.

AFN (Assembly of First Nations) Natural Fishers, Fresh water table

APS finance Committee

AN Governance Agreement Implementation working group

Alcohol Sales on Reserve online meetings

Cannabis form for Governance with AN negotiations

Review Committee with AN Regional Chief Review of new model with the 4 deputy grand chief.

AES (Anishinabek Education System) Chiefs Committee

Chiefs of Ontario

(b) Emyaa'Wsed (Chief Executive Officer's) Report.

Brendan Huston, Chief Executive Office provided updates on the following:

Debendaagziwaad (Citizenship) Committee - Provided Technical Support to Debendaagziwaad Committee with Support of NFN Legal Counsel and Strategic Advisor to Chief and Council. Drafted committee update following February 17th meeting and distributed in community newsletter. Reviewed memo on Principles for Citizenship Importance and Good Citizenship. This will be reviewed with Committee at March 24th meeting.

2022-2023 Budget Review - Completed review of 2022-2023 Budgets with Admin and Finance. (103 departmental budgets) Implemented improved consolidated budget template and program with support of IT. Supported presentation of 2022-2023 budgets and recommended Own-Source Revenue Allocations to Finance and Audit Committee. Presented 2022-2023 budgets and recommend Own-Source Revenue Allocations to Chief and Council at March 8th, 2022 Special Chief and Council Meeting. Final approval proposed for March 15, 2022 Chief and Council Meeting.

Department Transitions & Succession Planning - Social Services Director Recruitment. *Social Services Director* interviews - completed with support of current Director of Social Services, Director of Administration and HR Manager. Hiring decision in progress.

Director of Education Recruitment - Participating in Director of Education interviews week of March 14th with support current Director of Education and HR Manager.

Sundown Ridge Planning – Land Improvement Purchase - Support exploration of financing options. Per direction of Council, request has been submitted to trust for loan to support purchase of land improvements known as Sundown Ridge. Presentation to Trust board scheduled for March 17, 2022. Provide oversight and support in property use planning. Support Housing department and Planning Core Committee in identification of options for Sundown Ridge – Preliminary options include utilization of apartments units as market-based rentals for NFN members and chalets as short-term rentals for NFN members. Briefing to be finalized by end of March.

Admin Core - Chair bi-weekly Admin Core meetings with Finance, Admin, IT and HR. *Admin Core Workplan Implementation* - Oversight on implementation of human resource software implementation (MitreFinch) – currently implementing. Oversight on Compensation Review project – planning engagement sessions with staff, managers and leadership to confirm core principles. Awaiting discussion/facilitation questions from consultant. Sufficient comparator data has been collected to proceed. Evaluate Exit Interview input. Review Admin related policies – HR Policy, SharePoint, Social Media policies reviewed in recent months.

Respond to ad-hoc items as required.- Committee iPad Rentals – Identified budget to support purchase of 10 iPad/Tablets. Estimated delivery timeline of 6 weeks. Working on development of rental agreement/waiver (March 15, 2022). Work from Home Policy Development – reviewed preliminary policy components on March 15, 2022. Input to be incorporated into initial for week of March 21, 2022.

Council Meeting Coordination (Return to In-Person and Live Streaming/Recording)

Nbisiing Power - Serve as steering committee member for the partnership with Composite Power and provide strategic oversight in the development of the partnership. Presented NFN partnership history and Nbisiing Power overview to Mitsubishi Electric Power Products on Feb 23, 2022, to support business/partnership development goals. Participate in monthly Director's meetings – Reviewed operational budget to date and confirmed plan to proceed with cash injection per Council approval. Reviewed workplan with partners and interim CEO (Feb 16, 2022).

Drinking Water Class Action - Provide technical support to Chief and Council with respect to the Drinking Water Class Action. Confirmed presentation of Class Counsel at the March 15, 2022, Chief and Council Meeting – Settlement overview and next steps (BCAR, membership confirmation, etc.) Claims period for individuals opened March 7th, 2022 and will be open until March 2023. Lands and membership met with Class Counsel on Mar 11, 2022, to confirm claim process steps and information required from NFN (membership confirmation). Inquiries will be directed to claims administrator and class counsel.

Information Technology (IT) Governance - Support development and implementation of IT Governance Framework with IT and select Director group (Health Services & Lands Natural Resources) Working on developing a framework for how we identify, structure, and manage the data received across the organization. Identifying opportunities to leverage existing platforms.

Provided support in development of 21-22 pre-implementation and 22-23 implementation budgets.

NFN' Committee/Meeting Supports- Provides support and direction for monthly meetings in Social Core, Capital Community Planning, Admin Core, Finance, Human Resources, Community Wellness Support and Managers meetings. Weekly meetings with Chief and Strategic Advisor, as well as by weekly meetings with Department Directors.

Community Initiatives - The BINGO Jab and Dab is scheduled for the end of this month for all NFN members to enjoy a fun game incorporating positive COVID-19/ vaccine messages and Anishnabemowin.

The vaccine acknowledgment program is scheduled to be announced in April. This program will offer gifts cards to NFN members, NFN household members and NFN employees that collectively rolled up their sleeves to be fully vaccinated and boosted.

Operational Updates -

- Temporary pandemic pay ended March 5, 2022.
- NFN resumed hosting outdoor events March 14, 2022, and kicked this off with an evening family event in Garden Village. A report will be provided. Thus far the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.
- NFN offices re-opened March 15, 2022, with updated screening notices posted at entrances.
- The province is lifting the requirement for masks or face coverings on March 21, 2022. Masks will still be required in NFN facilities and vehicles for at least another 2 weeks. On April 4th, 2022, it is recommended that masks be optional unless required by a ministry mandate. On April 4th, 2022, it is recommended to lift the requirement for wearing only level 2 surgical masks in NFN facilities and vehicles unless required by a ministry mandate.
- Starting May 1, 2022, NFN is scheduled to resume indoor community events.
- Starting May 31 ,2022 NFN is scheduled to resume booking community space rentals.
- The NFN CCG (Crisis Control Group) will be reviewing the COVID-19 Exit Plan again on March 21, 2022, to assess if there are any other changes or additions in light of the provincial announcement with ending of emergency orders and directives.

(c) Anishinabek Police

Acting Police Chief Marc Lesage provided an update on Policing in the community.

2 Assault Charges

3 Break and Enter

3 Drug Offences

4 Mental Health Act Call

7 Vehicle Collisions

8 Family Disputes

2 Domestic Disputes

There were little to no breaks in service due to Covid. Offices remained closed except for operational requirements.

APS is still waiting on confirmation of further funding for the new facilities.

Will be installing mobile workstations for the cars and looking at cameras for the cars and body worn. Updates will follow.

Joint funded Cadet program. One hired for a year program.

There will be 3 detectives across the APS for Missing, Murdered Indigenous Girls.

APS was part of the Indigenous Police Chiefs of Ontario Mental Health Review. More information to follow.

- (d) **Councillor Meeting Report – Citizenship Law Report**
Deferred – any questions reach out to Councillor Stevens
- (e) **Councillor Meeting Report – West Nipissing General Hospital Report**
Deferred – any questions reach out to Councillor Stevens
- (f) **Kinoomaagewin Aanke Giigdownin (Education) Minutes of Feb 28/22**
Mike provided an overview of the Education Minutes of February 28, 2022. There were no recommendations.
- (g) **Special Council Minutes of March 8, 2022**
Council reviewed the SCM of March 8, 2022.

Moved by Daniel Stevens.

Seconded by June Commanda to approve the SCM of March 8, 2022, as presented.

Carried.

- (h) **Natural Resources Committee Minutes of January 24, 2022**
Council reviewed the Natural Resources Committee Minutes of January 24, 2022.

Moved by Mike Sawyer.

Seconded by Tyeler Commanda to approve the Natural Resources Committee Minutes of January 24, 2022, as presented.

Carried.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- (a) **2022-2023 Budget Approval**

Council reviewed the proposed 2022-2023 budget recommendation.

Moved by Daniel Stevens

Seconded by Joan McLeod-Shabogesic to accept the 2022-2023 budgets as presented on March 8, 2022, including consolidated budget revenue of \$65,927,781, expenses of \$61,180,706, Enhancement fund allocation of \$1,414,976 and Trust Income allocation of \$6,192,056.01.

Carried.

- (b) **Proposed Amendment to the Framework Agreement – Lands Management Council**

A briefing note was provided by the Lands department in full support of the proposed amendment to the Framework Agreement.

The proposed FAFNLMA emphasizes the central importance of the Framework Agreement by providing that it "continues in effect", has the "force of law", is "binding on Her Majesty in right of Canada", and is "binding on, and may be relied on by, all persons and bodies". It will be clear going forward that First Nations, Canada, and other governments will have to refer to the FA (Framework Agreement) to understand the exercise of self-government over lands, enforcement, environmental controls, etc.

Based on the information provided by LAB regarding the amendment, the lands office fully supports the amendment and request that Chief and Council sign the BCR and the Chief sign the Amendment No. 7 Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management.

Moved by Tyeler Commanda.

Seconded by Joan McLeod-Shabogesic to approve the signing the Framework Agreement and BCR as presented.

Carried.

10. STANDING UPDATE ITEMS:

(a) Annuities Claim

The Chief provided a brief update on the Annuities Claim. The appeals process and the commencement of phase 3 will not be interrupted by the provincial elections.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS:

(a) Monthly Department Reports

(b) HR Monthly Report

(c) Task Tracker

12. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Joan McLeod-Shabogesic.

Seconded by Mike Sawyer to adjourn the NFN Council meeting of March 15, 2022, at 9:06 pm.

Carried and Adjourned