



Northern Association of Community Councils Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CanadInns Destination Polo Park Centre
Thursday, August 26, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present:

BOARD

Reg Meade, President
Helgi Einarsson, Eastern Chairperson
Wanda Mowatt, Eastern Secretary/Treasurer
Freda Parenteau, Northern Secretary/Treasurer
Harold Fleming, Western Secretary/Treasurer
Eric Olson, Eastern Vice-Chairperson
Glen Flett, Northern Chairperson
June Chu, Northern Vice-Chairperson
Lorne Huhtala, Western Vice-Chairperson

STAFF

Linda Payeur, Executive Director
Trinette Konge, NHFI Program Coordinator
Sara Kirby, Administrative Assistant

1.0 Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:12 a.m.

2.0 Delegations

2.2 IRNR – **Scott DeJaegher**, Director, Policy and Strategic Initiatives, Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations – Thursday, August 26th at 3:00 p.m. – 4:22 p.m.

2.2 IRNR – **Paul Doolan**, Executive Director, Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations – Friday, August 27th at 10:00 a.m. – 11:47 a.m.

3.0 Approval of Agenda

Item #11 on agenda - Reports moved to Friday morning following 1.0 Call to Order

It was moved by F. Parenteau, seconded by J. Chu that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

4.0 Approval of Minutes

2.2 December 11th, 2020

Line item #2 under Western Vice-Chairperson report changed to read 'Winter fishing on it's way' instead of "Fishing dock on it's way.'

It was moved by G. Flett seconded by L. Huhtala that, the minutes from December 11, 2020 be accepted.

CARRIED

2.2 May 14th, 2021

Item #4.0 Business arising from the minutes, motion was changed to state 'Motion for Board to be paid \$150 for NACC conference call meetings' instead of paid double.

It was moved by F. Parenteau seconded by H. Einarsson that, the minutes from May 14, 2021 be accepted.

CARRIED

5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

Manitoba Youth Job Positions – The positions, 4, were filled in Flin Flon for the Northern Market Trail Project (NMTP). The Winnipeg NACC office did not need to fill any summer positions as the 2021 AGM was postponed.

Census Canada – NACC sent out information via, email fax and mail to communities for participation. Unknowingly, despite verbally assuring NACC that community residents would be engaged, the opportunities required several qualifications that excluded many members from being able to assist the census e.g., criminal check, valid drivers license, access to vehicle and grade 12 education.

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 Crane River Resolution – State of Ag Disaster

- Resolution for IRNR support Crane River to enter into a State of Agricultural Disaster.
- Homebrook-Peonan Point, Meadow Portage and Salt Point also sent resolutions for state of Ag disaster.

6.2 NACC Greenhouse Letter and Funding Agreements

- IRNR NIFI gave \$24,990 towards getting more greenhouses out.

6.3 2021 NMFCCC Greenhouse for Community Food Growers Grant

- NMFCCC supported the project by granting \$60,163.
- It is the largest single grant they have given out in the history of their organization.

6.4 Northern Association of Community Councils – 21H189 - Municipal Relations Letter

- Building Sustainable Communities funding declined.

6.5 Lake MB Zebra Mussel Detection Letter – response to NACC letter

- Another update letter and said they would keep NACC in the loop.

7.0 Audited Financial Statements

Motion to accept the Audited Financial Statements as presented.

Moved by J. Chu and second by G. Flett

CARRIED

Motion for NACC office to mail hard copies of materials to Board members who would like to receive it.

Moved by H. Fleming and second by F. Parenteau

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned. for lunch 12:02 p.m.

Meeting resumed 12:35 p.m.

8.0 Financial

The General Ledger, Cheque Detail, Bank and Visa Reconciliations, Income Statement, Trail Balance and Budget vs Actuals to date were circulated and discussed.

8.1 Review of both Budget and Mid-year Budget to date

8.2 Review of Income Statement and Trail Balance

8.3 Approval of General Ledger

Motion to accept General Ledger

Moved by H. Einarsson and seconded by W. Mowatt

CARRIED

8.4 Approval of Cheque Ledger

Motion to accept Cheque Ledger

Moved by E. Olson and seconded by J. Chu

CARRIED

8.5 Approval of Bank Reconciliation

Motion to accept Bank Reconciliation

Moved by G. Flett and seconded by H. Einarsson

CARRIED

8.6 Approval of Visa Reconciliation

Motion to accept Visa Reconciliation

Moved by E. Olson and seconded by F. Parenteau

CARRIED

9.0 Board Expenses

MOTION: The edit of the Financial Management Policy under Travel and Per Diems section 2.2 Principles' line f) Directors will make reasonable use of tele-conferencing and video-conferencing facilities to reduce the need for travel.

Moved by E. Olson and second by J. Chu CARRIED

10.0 Staff Reports

10.1 NHFI Program Coordinator Trinette Konge
- Presented an update on NHFI programing.

10.2 Attached Executive Director Linda Payeur
- Attached

**Motion to give the NHFI Program Coordinator a 7% salary increase.
Moved by W. Mowatt and second by G. Flett CARRIED**

**Motion to accept the Per Diem changes (noted changes below).
Moved by W. Mowatt and second by G. Flett CARRIED**

Board of Directors Per Diems						
	Mileage Rate	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Per Diems
Old						
BOD	\$0.45/km	\$ 9.40	\$ 13.40	\$ 21.00	\$ 4.60	\$ 75.00
President	\$0.45/km	\$ 9.40	\$ 13.40	\$ 21.00	\$ 4.60	\$ 90.00
Current						
BOD	\$0.48/km	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 90.00
President	\$0.48/km	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 100.00

- 2.1 IRNR – Scott DeJaegher**, Director, Policy and Strategic Initiatives, Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations
- Talked about the changes to NHFI funding and budget over the last couple years.
 - o The impact the NHFI program has on NACC and the ability to work on receiving more funding opportunities.
 - Hoping to start to do some work on conversations with the federal government about partnerships for the NHFI more broadly.
 - Would be happy to sit down and talk about issues such as rural crime issues, connectivity, etc.
 - Deputy Minister has been doing a lot of work to continually remind our colleagues who have the justice portfolio, infrastructure portfolio and tell them that there are other communities up north that they are not necessarily considering and their unique needs.
 - o It is part of our role, the Minister of IRNR's role and the Deputy Minister's role to bring that profile within government to make sure it is top of mind for folks.
 - Scott notes that he is available for consultation regarding the structures of government, best approach, funding, and where is it sitting, we will do our best to help.
 - Discussion on communication process – from receipt to chain of command
 - o Letters addressed to Minister received by staff and decided at that point if it is intercepted or shared with Minister for action
 - NACC tag-ons (newsletter, AGM, expense reimbursements, etc.) are gone and the core funding has not increased in more than 15 years
 - Discussed what discretionary funding is and how to apply for it.
 - o Once a proposal is submitted to IRNR, it first gets reviewed by me and my staff. Once the due diligence is gone, we will submit a three-page document to the deputy minister for

- approval. If she approves, it is then sent to the Minister of IRNR to be approved and sign and the proposal will receive the requested funding.
- Talked about delegated authority which is a small pool of funds up to \$25,000 that is given to the Minister to decide on what those funds are used for. The proposal process is still the same as any other funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35.p.m. – **Moved by W. Mowatt**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CanadInns Destination Polo Park Centre
Friday, August 27, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

1.0 Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:59 a.m.

11.0 Board Reports

Eastern Chairperson

Helgi Einarsson

- This year we have a lot of slime, sludge and algae in Lake Winnipeg.
- The Express Newspaper did an article on the south basin of Lake Winnipeg.
- COVID-19 is now being announced as in the 4th wave. We had over 100 cases on Wednesday, August 25th. Manitoba is now closing down all the COVID-19 vaccination sites. Alberta had 1,100 cases yesterday.
- Crystal Dumas is moving to P.E.I.
- Today (after this meeting) I will be attending a fishermen's meeting in Riverton.
- The Hydro lines are down on the east side are expected not to be repaired for 6-8 weeks. They have over 100 poles to replace due to wild fire damage. There is a stock pile of poles near Bloodvein and are ferrying them across.
- Zebra Mussels on Lake Manitoba; now the government is seeing how effective they washing stations have been.
- Our community of Dauphin River is working with Wawatay on water testing and biodiversity.
- The commercial fishing starts on September 1st but Dauphin River is not starting until Monday the 6th.

Eastern Vice Chairperson

Eric Olson

- Lake Manitoba is low. No one has seen it as low as it is right now.
- They have had no COVID-19 cases in our community, so far it is staying away.
- Fishing was good in March; at the end of the season, everyone did pretty good.
- We had a big fire in our area in May that was started by a farmer that had a fire a month before with a burning permit. One of the ground fires were missed which led it to take off and become one of the province's largest wild fires. It took over a month and the fire is still not out.
- We received a federal and provincial shared grant for our community to build a curve on our road. It is being built as we speak and were at the half way mark before we got all this rain so we are waiting for the area to dry up.
- Homebrook/Peonan Point was extremely dry from the drought.

Eastern Secretary/Treasurer

Wanda Mowatt

- We only had one case of COVID-19 on the Island and it was a four-year-old.
- The fishing wasn't very good as previously stated. The nets were like blankets so they were pulled out early.
- Bill 64 is a big concern for us because we would have to drive our kids to Riverton which is an hour away from us and community members have said that they would move if that is the case.
- Our ferry operations are not doing good as the budget has not changed for up keep and can't keep workers as they are going to Pete Moss plant as they are able to offer a higher wage than the ferry can. At the same time, the Pete Moss plant hasn't been getting much work due to the dryness in the area so it is a challenge on both ends.

- The smoke from the fires bothered us but not the fires. I was able to count at least 12 fires out of the view from my window in neighbouring areas. Some days it was really smoky but for the most part it was alright.
- The Island was super dry; we took precautions even on the kids that were driving around on quads and got them to stop driving for the time being so that it would not spark a fire.
- We are hoping to get Starlink for the community.

Northern Chairperson

Glen Flett

- I continue to speak with the CAO's in Norway House and Cross Lake about the COVID-19 situation. Norway House Cree First Nation still has a check stop. They will ask question only when you come back but not if you are leaving through the area.
- We attended a meeting (asked by Chief and council) with Wab Kinew the NDP Leader and Lindsey {last name} from Flin Flon at the First Nation Council's board room.
 - o Bill 64 was brought up to their attention by both councils; Wab and Lindsey are aware that the north would suffer more from this bill because there is a chance of being out voted by the southern reps as well as funding would be a big problem.
 - o Fishing was also brought to their attention. Langford Sanders made a presentation about the fishing industry.
 - o Heard in the news that Pallister cut back on training for Manitoba firefighters as they haven't received training in two years. They used to do training in Thompson, Paint Lake, Snow Lake and The Pas. They are having trouble getting people to work the fires as most are staying home for the government CERB benefit.
 - o Housing was discussed at the meeting.
 - o Capital program was mentioned to Wab and they are aware about all the issues brought forward at the meeting
- There was mention that Norway House is to receive fibre optics in the community so people are excited for that.
- I sent Linda press release on Pallisters cuts to FEMA and cause integrity issues for Manitoba Infrastructure (MI).
- Building a new hospital on the reserve at the old high school site (Port Island)
 - o Building a new RCMP headquarters on the reserve.
 - o There is a new hospital being built in Cross Lake.

Northern Vice Chairperson

June Chu

- The Minister of Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations Dr. Alan Lagimodiere did a tour of the north this summer. On his way through communities, he happened to come to my hotel for lunch. He is very friendly and was born in The Pas so he knows about the north.
- Cross Lake are talking about getting a recycling business and hoping to build it near Wabowden by the railway line but it is just talk at this point.
- Since the restrictions have opened up a bit, we decided to have a little music festival on September 4th at the Wayside Park. We have all the licensing in place for the festival to be held.
- Bayline - Maurice Clemmons passed away and no one wants to become the rep for Bayline from the community.
 - o Hampers are still going well and are going strong and probably will still be handed out for a while yet. Cormorant hasn't been getting hampers and I am not sure why they are not receiving them.
- Artic Railway – They are mainly looking at fixing the Churchill line.
- We have had quite a few families move away recently so our community is getting smaller and smaller. It is hard to see people moving away.
 - o The store is not doing well, not as busy as it was before.
- Bears are a problem in the community. Once you deal with one, another one shows up.

Northern Secretary/Treasurer

Freda Parenteau

- As been shared, Bill 64 is huge concern for people who have children in the Frontier School Division schools in their communities.
 - o A main concern is that for First Nations communities who are trying to learn back the Cree language from the Cree teachers they have in the schools, so if this bill is passed; we will lose that program.

- We would also lose our fiddle jam and also lose our Frontier games. I am really hoping that this bill will not be passed.
- Moose Lake
 - I have been in contact with the mayor of Moose Lake.
 - Council has been working very closely with the band council to help pass Band Council Resolutions (BCR) due to the escalating violence in the area which has caused young people to be medevac'd to Winnipeg.
 - A majority of the evacuated homes out there have been burnt down and now they are starting to target homes that people are currently living in.
 - COVID-19 in the community was really bad. They were just about to have a state of emergency and thinking about calling in the military to assist. Moose Lake worked really hard to getting the cases back under control and now have zero cases.
- Cormorant
 - They hired 15 summer students this year which I was happy about.
 - The COVID-19 case were at zero until two weeks ago. One family tested positive and the community is pretty much in lockdown as they are concerned about the case.
- I know we talked a bit about the broadband internet press release announcement; Is there anything we can do to get Northern Affairs communities on the list? Because none of our communities are on that list.
- Census Canada is another big concern for me. Is there a way to check the numbers to ensure they are accurate?
 - NACC should continue to push Census Canada that we have a representative in each community to do their own census instead of a stranger coming in causing many to not answer the door.

Western Vice Chairperson

Lorne Huhtala

- Had a couple concerned citizens over the road block being down.
- Skownan garbage dump is in real dismay as it is getting closer to the river and can cause pollution issues.
 - Waterhen won't separate recycling from the garbage that comes from Skownan so it ends up back in the garbage.
- Gardens in the community are doing well.
- Lake Waterhen levels are really low, looks like White fish and Jack fish are going to be a total write off on the lake.
 - Not sure what the government is going to do about the zebra mussels as it is the only certified lake in the province.
- There was a letter sent out about the zebra mussels being in Lake Manitoba but if they get into Lake Dauphin, we are all going to have trouble.
- The new Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations (IRNR) Minister went to meet the mayor and deputy mayor in Waterhen.
- The water line from Waterhen to Meadow Portage but I will let Harold talk about that.
- The roads on Crane River, 328 is really lacking maintenance.
- Ground fires are still burning from the spring in our area.
- Mental Health Resources – We haven't talked about that in a while but it is really important. We are wanting to give as much resources as we can to help people in the area who may be struggling right now.

2.2 IRNR – Paul Doolan, Executive Director, Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations

- Talked about the internal changes that might happen when the new premier is elected.
- Have not heard anything new on the MNP review.
 - IRNR is still looking at regionalization and which communities could become hubs.
 - Minister visits, Waterhen and Camperville; there is interest there to incorporate.
 - Minister Lagimodiere wishes to meet with each one individually.
 - The cottage areas moving from IRNR portfolio to Municipalities.
 - IRNR has been mandated to work with conservation, ARD or any group that has cottage areas outside of parks, to come up with a model where it is consistent between how parks charge for their cottage areas and how we charge them.
 - Parks is mostly on an assessment basis (they assess the property and that's what you pay). IRNR is on the levee side for a majority of our cottage areas.

- The department is looking at; as per the direction from central government to work with the conservation and to look at what would be the best model for all cottage areas.
 - That would be changes, there won't be levees anymore and there will be challenges with that. The cottages don't have a council while some of them have associations that determine what services you need which in turn determines the cost for the overall cottage area.
 - The department is in the process of hiring two staff for a one-year term to look at what would be involved in doing an assessment model for all of our cottage areas within the jurisdiction of Northern Affairs. They would go out to visit all the areas, GPS will determine the number of lots, what current services are provided, etc. There will be a big analysis over the next year which is outside of the MNP review.
- Discussing regionalization of communities.
 - that it is not about taking funds away from the individual community if grouped together.
 - It is becoming too costly to put water treatment plants in communities that are 15km away from each other.
- The department is not getting any increases in funding but have been fortunate that the funding has not decreased (at least for the last two years).
- Hauling garbage to neighbouring community
 - The department will be looking into the operating funding and what the community would need to be able to do this.
- Talked about looking into working with neighbouring communities and reserves to share services (sewage truck, fire services, water treatment, etc.).
- Capital Review Board
 - There is no longer a capital review board, it was. T
 - .
 - The department is trying to catch up on our backlog of projects since 2016 to 2019. Last year was the first year that we spent our capital budget allocation.
 - An implemented change was to not have both directors involved at the same time. It was looking at who's the best director to lead the capital side, so that became Stew. He works well with those techs.
 - We now have Leah Garson, Director of the Northern Regional office, her forte is administration and governance so we have been able to take that expertise and she now works more on the governance side with all of our governance supporting staff regardless of what region they are in.
 - The department looked into removing those regional boundaries and send the staff member who is best suited for the job (e.g., staffer from Winnipeg available to go to Wabowden as no one in Thompson not available at that time).
 - We have staff located in Dauphin, The Pas, Winnipeg and Thompson. We have a new position available for a Technical Public Works position in Thompson.
- The department is going to be doing some regional workshops again for mayor and council and training as it has not been done for 3 or 4 years and it's showing.
 - There was a workplace health and safety incident in Cormorant that could have cost someone their life and we are very fortunate that it didn't happen but now it's shown us that we need to get these people out and doing that training.
 - The virtual training works a little bit but bringing them out to do face-to-face and hands on training is ideal.
- The MNP review is not the only report that IRNR is looking at.
 - This review has been done before in 2013. I told the Minister and Deputy Minister that this report is not reflective of us as a department and as a branch. The fact that they didn't do a lot of the things we asked them to do. No one came to visit any of our communities.
 - We had an internal report created by Armand, Freda, Stewart and their staff who work with our communities and know them well.
 - We are looking on how to ensure proper representation for the communities if they were to come together. I still want to pursue that as well as council composition.
- National Mills is going to be removed from IRNR books as no one is living there. The is regulation that has to be followed before we can remove it. We also need to go and make sure that it is safe, there was some derelict buildings left to still be decommissioned.
 - Oxford House, Little Grand Rapids, Grandville Lake. There is nobody there and it's time to take our footprint out of there.
- Northern Manitoba Community Consultation Board

- The department will be bringing the board together. It will be working on things like incorporation, changing a community boundary. We are establishing this board because there is an opportunity to incorporate (e.g., Norway House) and now there has been some interest in Camperville.
- We are going to bring the board back and there is a provision in the board that there is one seat for the NACC to determine who sits on it. The department is going to be working with you to set that up.
- There are some parameters that we are going to be setting up for this three-person board.
- Wanted to talk about NACC's Constitution
 - I ask you; do you want to look at your constitution to changing them to put in specifications that you need to be a member of a council until your term position is up for election.
 - We looked at AMM as they are the more similar to your organization and they don't have non-elected officials on their boards.
- The new name changes for the new Minister and how do you see community impact
 - His is learning the portfolio so I don't know what changes he may make.
 - Reconciliation is in our mandate from the Minister but I don't know why the name changed,

Board In-camera – 11:48 a.m.

Moved by G. Flett and second by J. Chu

MOTION: Be it resolved that the NACC Board support and appoint Reg Meade to represent NACC on the Northern Manitoba Consultation Board.

Moved by H. Fleming and second by J. Chu

Board out-camera – 12:09 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m. for lunch.

The meeting resumed at 12:42 p.m.

Western Secretary/Treasurer

Harold Fleming

- No COVID-19 cases in the community and we have about 90% who are vaccinated.
- This summer we had four students hired.
- We got funding for our water line to investigate the low-pressure issue and we are going to put tenders out this week. We will be meeting with IRNR to discuss how the process will go.
 - They have bought us a 900-gallon tank as a reservoir but isn't a permanent fix.

President

Reg Meade

- We are not fishing in Wabowden yet. We didn't start fishing in spring on the count of the zebra mussels and low water as well as the dirty water on the Nelson River from Lake Winnipeg due to the sewage from Winnipeg.
 - Kept the plant open by getting fish from Norway House dropped into the Wabowden plant. Maybe in this coming September, the fishing will start.
- The loggers from Wabowden out on Devil's Lake were pulled out due to the fires in the area but I think they are starting up again at Grand Rapids and Ponton.
- Lots of road construction north of Wabowden. They are fixing up the ditches but leaving the pavement the way it is.
- Lots of bears in the community.
- The IRNR travel cost is still an issue. They will still use it as an excuse not to come to communities.

Motion to accept Board Reports

Moved by L. Huhtala and second by J. Chu

CARRIED

Motion for NACC to request a meeting with the newly appointed premier of Manitoba directly through the premier's office as well as requesting a meeting with the new minister of IRNR as soon as possible.

Moved by H. Fleming and second by L. Huhtala

CARRIED

Motion for NACC to be advised of any senior management or executive staff changing of responsibilities at IRNR as well as any department policy changes.

Moved by W. Mowatt and second by F. Parenteau

CARRIED

13.0 Policy Manual Update

- **1.02 Overview**
 - Leave community number as is until IRNR officially indicates that the number has changed.
- **1.03 Membership**
 - Referred to a section in the Northern Affairs Act that does not apply to NACC membership
- **2.01 Annual Budget**
 - Should say previous fiscal year actuals.
- **2.10 Accounts Receivable**
 - Enter the amount into the accounting software instead of ledger.
- **2.15 Authority to Sign**
 - A resolution was previous made to exempt reoccurring bills (Visa, rent, telephone, Hydro, etc.) from being paid by cheque as the amount is greater than \$200.00.

Motion to change “all expenditures of \$200 or more” to \$2,500 or more shall be paid by cheque.

Moved by W. Mowatt and second by J. Chu

CARRIED

- **2.25 Approval of Expenditures**
 - Remove second sentence of #5 ‘Capital expenditures include all assets with a life span beyond two (2) years.
- **2.30 Credit Card Use**
 - Remove line #1.

Motion to accept all the amended policy changes.

Moved by F. Parenteau and second by H. Einarsson

CARRIED

14.0 AGM

- Create 2021 AGM questioner and send it to the board for approval. Once approved, will be faxed, emailed and hard copy mailed to every community council office. The Board will follow up on the communities.
- A Letter from the NACC President and board to accompany the AGM mailout form.

15.0 New Business

- No new business.

16.0 Next Meeting

Next board meeting is tentatively held on December 9th & 10th, 2021

17.0 Adjournment

Motion for meeting adjournment

Moved by G. Flett