



Northern Association of Community Councils Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
Canad Inns Destination Centre Polo Park, 1405 St. Mathews Ave.

Board of Directors Meeting
AMBASSADOR ROOM E
Luncheon Room K

Thursday, December 8th, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.
Friday, December 9th, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Board of Directors

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

Staff Linda Payeur, Executive Director (joined virtually)

Regrets Talon Knight, Administrative Assistant
Wanda Mowatt, Eastern Secretary/Treasurer

1.0 Call to Order – at 9:03 A.M.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Reviewed and discussed.

Moved by H. Einarsson, Seconded by G. Flett

CARRIED

3.0 Delegations

- 3.1 **Jessica Drakul, Paul Doolan, Jeremy Akerstream**, IRNR – December 8, 11am
- 3.2 **Sharalyn Reitlo**, CFWR – Strategic Planning – Dec 9 – 9am to noon
- 3.3 **Gord Simpson**, Simpson Computer Support, Dec 9 – 1pm
- 3.4 **Al Smith**, Steeprock Threads and Fibre, Dec 9 – 2:30pm

3.1 Paul Doolan arrives during the Community Reports at approx. 11 A.M.

- Introduction of the NACC board of directors and staff.
- Noted spending a lot of their operating budget (approx. 1.5 million) on flood prep this year.
- J. Chu inquired after the minimum wage increase if this would affect the government's budget for NACC. P Doolan informed the board they are providing a funding increase for any positions currently below the minimum wage such as volunteer firefighters, and waste disposal attendants, and looking at overall wage increases across the board. Also

noted that they are moving forward with a request to provide additional funding for operators to also increase their hours within water treatment plants.

- Reports that their wastewater training course is back to in-person training in Winnipeg again, with the last time in-person offered to be in 2019. Also noted they are piloting a project with a water testing center in Thompson for communities to send their water samples to, and possibly consulting with UCN for using their lab space.
- D. Popowich brought up his concerns regarding the lack of planning on operational costs on large projects and also changing regulations or special license requirements for garbage collection. P. Doolan said they will look into that for both funding and support. He also noted he'd had some discussions with MTI as they used to provide roadwork and support for the communities in the past. P. Doolan also noted that they are looking at models or options that would not rely on the current per-capita model of Northern Affairs communities, but something on who actually uses the roads.
 - D. Popowich also mentioned a past program or initiative where the government would hire a small team of people with a CAT, dump truck, etc. to visit each community for a short period to clear out the snow. A general discussion of this program's past benefits occurred. Also discussed were the challenges communities are facing to meet the CORE certification standards put in place by the government of Manitoba.
- Discussion about possible opportunities for income generation in communities occurred, alongside similar challenges such as fixed income in households and other factors.
- General Discussion about Capital Projects, and Community Management Plan changes, led by P. Doolan, occurred.
- G. Flett inquired about the highway road maintenance concerns he brought up in his report with the delegates. Discussion followed.
- J. Chu asked P. Doolan about the possible budget allocation for equipment maintenance, general discussion followed.

4.0 Approval of Minutes from August 23rd & 25th, 2022

Moved by F. Parenteau, Seconded by G. Flett (with the correction to date typo) **CARRIED**

5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

No business arising from the minutes.

6.0 Correspondence

None

7.0 Financial

- 7.1 Financial Year-to-Date Budget
Reviewed and discussed. No motion is required.
- 7.2 General Ledger Detail
Moved by J. Chu, Seconded by F. Parenteau **CARRIED**
- 7.3 Cheque Detail
Moved by E. Olson, Seconded by G. Flett **CARRIED**
- 7.4 Bank Reconciliation
Moved by G. Flett, Seconded by H. Einarsson **CARRIED**
- 7.5 Visa Reconciliation
Moved by E. Olson, Seconded by H. Einarsson **CARRIED**

7.6 Petty Cash Reconciliation
Moved by H. Fleming, Seconded by F. Parenteau

CARRIED

Discussion about the uncashed check sent to Larry Chartrand from a year ago occurred. L. Payeur noted she will investigate this matter.

8.0 Staff Reports:

8.1 **Executive Director** **Linda Payeur**

- Attached

9.0 Reports:

9.1 **Western Chairperson** **Harold Fleming**

- Inquired if NACC sent condolences to Spence Lake (Ken Spence) for Blanch Spence's passing.
- Engineers had inspected and condemned the council office in Meadow Portage due to a rotted floor. Noted Stewart Sabiston is looking into it now.
- Cattle prices are good for ranchers, seems to have lots of feed around. Fishing in Lake Manitoba is not very good.
- Mentioned some changes to Crown Lands to be discussed later.

9.2 **Eastern Vice-Chairperson** **Helgi Einarsson**

- Notes Fishing in September and October was good. Started ice fishing just recently.
- Elections were completed this year, no new changes to report.
- Inquired about NACC sending a condolence card to the Andrews Family.

9.3 **Northern Chairperson** **Glen Flett**

- Noted that at the last executive meeting, it was suggested to invite Tim Johnson, who sends his regrets for not being able to come down to Winnipeg. He and G. Flett spoke over the phone recently regarding their concerns about how the highways are maintaining their snow removal services this year. Some big communities (Flin Flon and The Pas for example) are often not willing to send out plows post-snowstorm until some days later. Discussed his concerns about why plows are not being sent out, and how the governments and some municipalities may prioritize sections of the province.
- Discussion occurred over the historic shifting of government-run snow-clearing services that have transferred to private companies and contractors and the historical comparisons of how both were managed and operated. Also mentioned was a former minister of Thompson, Danielle Adams, who was killed recently in a road-related incident due to lack of snow clearing and other deaths that have occurred. J. Chu mentioned an RCMP report that had just been published on December 1st stating a grader or plow truck had gone into the ditch. E. Olson mentioned this is what caused his community's grader to be sent over to Grand Rapids.
- Noted that he spoke with some rural community leaders near The Pas where they don't have the staff, or the persons being hired are viewed as apathetic with the most common concern/comment he hears is the lack of living wage to recruit staff as compared to the private sectors.

9.4 **Eastern Chairperson** **Eric Olson**

- Announced the school now has Starlink since the last executive meeting after approximately 3 years of struggling to get connectivity.
- Fishing in the area has been good.
- Noted he had spoken with the local MLA/Minister Derek Johnston regarding a few of his concerns. The minister could not answer many questions due to the election blackout in Winnipeg. They did announce a reduction in rates this

year for agriculture. Also discussed was the lack of natural resources in the area and the minister spoke about Manitoba's low wages in that field.

- Noted that contractors in his area are becoming "few and far between", and much harder to get a hold of on top of other issues. E. Olson attempted to get a contractor in his area for local side roads and could not get a hold of them for over 3 weeks. Notes other contractors in the area, when he tried to get gravel for a road when it snowed last year is still waiting for the gravel as of 2022. Noted people often don't show up for jobs he contracted them for. Said he approached Stewart Sabiston regarding communities stockpiling and owning the gravel so others could buy it off them as needed and S. Sabiston sounded receptive to the idea.

9.5 Northern Sec/Treasurer Freda Parenteau

- Reported that Moose Lake has completed its elections. Two people were elected for two-year terms. One councillor was re-elected, and another one is new. Also elected three people for four-year terms, and two people are new to the council.
- Noted that crime and violence went down in the last few months.
- Reported that Cormorant has also completed its elections. Had spoken to the mayor and they report they are happy with their new council.

9.6 Western Vice Chairperson Lorne Huhtala

- Noted the elections had been completed, with the same mayor but new councillors voted in.
- Fishing started, noted the prices had raised since last week.
- Noted that Xplornet's tower in Mallard is up, but not sure it is running correctly.
- Had three snow storms already, but noted that the snow plow did not come for the first or the third storm.

9.7 Eastern Sec/Treasurer Wanda Mowatt

9.8 Northern Vice Chairperson June Chu

- Reported that elections were completed. J. Chu was re-elected and, there are two new councillors and a new CAO.
- Noted that their Fire Department had its's gear borrowed from them when Easterville's fire occurred but needs some assistance to get gear returned. The Fire Department will also have its Class 1 Air Brake license training in January 2023.

9.9 Western Sec/Treasurer Doug Popowich

- Mentioned a Census issue on the proper definition of residency, as some residents were not included in the last census. Discussion followed.
- Spoke to having to re-visit a lot of road issues with culverts, drainage, flooding, etc. As of now, the community is close to or resides in a watershed district with multiple government departments to deal with.
- Noted that ambulance service is poor compared to the volunteer service they had back in the 1970s. There is not an ambulance stationed in town anymore, and the letter received from the Regional Health Authority claimed that the town "needs to be less lackadaisical and provide living accommodations". The current ambulance driver takes their ambulance to another community to start their shift, D. Popowich communicated to the organization that such actions are not proper conduct.
- Noted his concerns with the Capital process, namely the lack of knowledge and support for projects like the garbage dump where the community had to buy and put in Hydro lines, build washrooms and connect plumbing, get a satellite phone for the employee there, etc.

- 9.10 **President** **Reg Meade**
- Noted he attended the Sub-Zero conference in Thompson. Currently going to Artic gateway's meeting this week.

Motion to accept Board Reports.

Moved by J. Chu and second by L. Huhtala

CARRIED

10.0 Adjourn for Lunch Break

11.0 NACC, Strategic Plan

12.0 Unfinished Business and General Orders

12.1 Fishing Co-operative

General discussion occurred. H. Einarsson made a Motion to invite the president of FFHAI to the next meeting, G. Flett seconded this motion. The Board voted to go forward with the letter of support, 4 voted in favor of going forward, 3 abstained.

12.2 Board and Executive Meeting schedule/expense

A brief discussion occurred. G. Flett made a Motion to remain as-is, H. Einarsson seconded the motion.

12.3 AGM Minutes and Resolutions

Still missing the Eastern Region's minutes. L. Payeur made a proposal for the Board to review the resolutions package to ensure each resolution had enough merit for the NACC to act upon. Discussion followed.

12.4 IRNR 2022/2023 Capital Projects Funding Commitments

13.0 New Business

14.0 Next Meeting

The next Full Board Meeting is planned for March 9-10, 2023. The next executive meeting is scheduled for January 20th, 2023.

15.0 Adjournment

Adjournment 3:07 pm