



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

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday June 26, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Board of Directors

Reg Meade, President
Wanda Mowatt, Eastern Secretary/Treasurer
Harold Fleming, Western Chairperson
June Chu, Northern Vice-Chairperson
Freda Parenteau, Northern Secretary/Treasurer
Glenn Flett, Northern Chairperson
Lorne Huhtala, Western Vice-Chairperson
Doug Popowich, Western Secretary/Treasurer

Regrets

Helgi Einarsson, Eastern Vice-Chairperson
Eric Olson, Eastern Chairperson

Staff

Linda Payeur, Executive Director
Nadine Tonn, NHFI Coordinator

1.0 Call to Order – at 9:06 A.M. by W. Mowatt

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Moved by G. Flett, Seconded by W. Mowatt

CARRIED

3.0 Delegations

3.1 **Alex Yaworski** – Partner at Fort Group Chartered Professional Accountants
Tuesday, June 27th, 2023, 9 am

4.0 Approval of Board Minutes from March 9 and 10, 2023

4.1 Reviewed and discussed, a motion to add an item to new business as Northern Regional Health Authority – Cormorant.

Moved by H. Fleming, Seconded by L. Huhtala

CARRIED

5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes of March 9th, 2023, Board Minutes

ACTION: L. Payeur to investigate patient and transportation costs with the Northern Regional Health Authority for Cormorant.

ACTION: L. Payeur will look into the lack of health care services for northern member communities.

ACTION: L. Payeur examine what IRNR requires for a community resolution as to how Census Canada conducts surveys in Northern communities.

Adjourn for Coffee Break 10:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 From Minister Clarke, RE: Northern Affairs Ministerial – Regional Meetings

General discussion followed, including the clarification as to IRNR Regional meetings in Winnipeg, per the department's mandate to work with community councils, only elected members of community councils are invited to attend.

6.2 From Minister Clarke, RE: Northern Affairs Ministerial – Respectful Workplace

Members discussed Minister Clarke's correspondence of June 5, 2023, re: 'The behavior, which I myself witnessed when attending at the NACC Board Meetings on March 9, 2023, directly contravenes the provincial Respectful Workplace Policy and expectations in our Northern Affairs Policy Framework' and, "...all NACC board members and employees will be expected to fully cooperate with the external consultant on the respectful workplace review and with department staff in discussions as related to financial management as a condition of the issuance of further funding to NACC in 2023/24".

6.3 From Minister Clarke, RE: Northern Affairs Ministerial – Resolution Response

General discussions followed, including interpretation of the Northern Affairs Branch responses to the resolutions as passed by the General Assembly at the Northern Association of Community Council's 2022 Annual General Meeting.

MOTION: Reg Mead, President of NACC will write a letter in response to disrespectful workplace behavior to the Honourable Eileen Clarke, Minister.

Moved by H. Fleming, Seconded by W. Mowatt

CARRIED

Adjourn for Lunch Break 12:15 P.M. – 1:32 P.M.

7.0 Financial

7.1 Discussion of Draft Audit

7.2 Financial Year-to-Date Budget Compare

7.3 Approval of General Ledger

Moved by W. Mowatt, Seconded by F. Parenteau

CARRIED

7.4 Approval of Cheque Detail

Moved by F. Parenteau, Seconded by J. Chu

CARRIED

7.5 Approval of Bank Reconciliation

Moved by H. Fleming, Seconded by W. Mowatt

CARRIED

7.6 Approval of Visa Reconciliation

Moved by W. Mowatt, Seconded by D. Popowich

CARRIED

8.0 Staff Reports:

8.1 **Executive Director**

Attached

Linda Payeur

8.2 **NHFI Program Coordinator**

Attached

Nadine Tonn

9.0 Reports:

9.1 **Western Chairperson**

Harold Fleming

- Spoke to the Constable Program meeting with Kevin McPike, Assistant Deputy Minister, and Paul Doolan, Executive Director. They advised that the Constable Program will not be reinstated.
- Talked about attending the Regional Meeting.
- Mentioned the Green Team students hired 2 times 5 weeks.

- 9.2 **Western Vice-Chairperson Lorne Huhtala**
- Stated that they have no Fire Department could be a potential safety hazard to the community.
 - Explained that community grass cutting has been casual as Public Works is with shared with Mallard.
 - Stated that due to heat a variety of dead fish washed up on the shoreline.
 - Spoke to concerns about safety and potential dangers to children on the Waterhen Bridge.
 - Mentioned worst year for wood ticks.
- 9.3 **Western Sec/Treasurer Doug Popowich**
- Mentioned tragic drowning in the 1980s, and that this is reminiscent of the recent tragedy as the police halted rescue until Water Rescue Team arrived at the scene in Waterhen.
 - Explained that IRNR starting to realize water treatment plant has issues. However, IRNR has no plans for operating or maintaining water plants. Referenced the lagoon was not to scale as water plant was built too large with an insufficient operating budget.
 - Expressed the constable program returned but now the safety is not working for the community. Additionally, invite patrolling constable to attend meetings.
 - Spoke about how Skownan is hauling water, and Waterhen is unable to keep up with the added water demand.
 - The larger the water treatment plant, the higher the training so more trouble to retain staffing.
- 9.4 **Northern Chairperson Glen Flett**
- Mentioned that Leonard Budd, Mayor, is very busy and that there are liability concerns with fire safety in the community as service is provided by First Nations which is Federally regulated.
 - Spoke about how without access to repair expertise, water trucks are down and inoperable due to their computerized systems.
 - Community Administrative Officer of Norway House called Paul Doolan and was advised to go through MERX. One truck is currently in Brandon and no other trucks are available in Manitoba.
 - Mentioned that the previous floods in Norway House cost money, similarly, Meadows Portage is experiencing the same flood dilemma, yet IRNR refuses to provide any funds to upkeep the lands.
 - Reported that he attended the Thompson Regional Airport Authority (TRAA) and that TRAA is in the process of improving airport facilities with a new building.
 - Informed members that attended Community Future Meeting on May 24, 2023, and completed Respectful Workplace training.
- 9.5 **Northern Vice-Chairperson June Chu**
- Reported that had attended a Regional Meeting
 - Spoke to attending numerous housing meetings with Patty Fortcan, and the state of two housing units in Wabowden.
 - Confirmed that Bayline has returned to normal operations prior to pre-Covid.
 - Mentioned how the 4 locals have been hired by the Fire Department to assist in fighting forest fires.
 - Submitted a grant application for the First Firefighters' Baseball Tournament and through a Culture Grant of \$7 500. for September.
 - Conveyed that Candice attended a meeting in Wabowden and the council budget has increased, by approximately \$36 000.
 - Mentioned that Regie Leach was a guest speaker at the Frontier School Division meeting.

- 9.6 **Northern Sec/Treasurer** **Freda Parenteau**
- Spoke to Edie Turner, Mayor, and council to employ summer students.
 - Noted that Edie Tuner contacted Bayline in May regarding financial statements for equipment and seeds for their community. The phone call was disconnected.
 - Mentioned that many community members canceled events in response to the rate increases at the campground.
 - Noted that Nicki Ashton, NDP, Churchill has received various concerns from community members because of the water quality and continuous boil water advisory. Ashton was provided images of yellow water from the water treatment plant.
 - Advised that a Green Team Grant, enabled the Manitoba Métis Federation to hire four Métis students for summer employment.
- 9.7 **Eastern Sec/Treasurer** **Wanda Mowatt**
- Mentioned that Transportation and Infrastructure are working on repairing provincial road 234 due to flooding.
 - Noted that due to weather conditions, the Ferry became operational one week later, under guidelines of health and safety.
 - Spoke that JoAnne Flett, CAO is leaving, and is currently training the chief administrator office assistant.
 - Noted that due to extensive rainfall Pine Dock gardens and beach experienced massive damage.
- 9.10 **President** **Reg Meade**
- Advised that attended One North – Arctic Gateway meeting.
 - This summer old creosote railway ties will be removed due to environmental concerns.
 - Asked to explore the possibility of Aboriginal Day in Thompson.
 - Mentioned that Opaskwayak Cree Nation appointed Sidney Ballantyne as Chief and the next meeting is scheduled for September
 - Reported that the Grand Rapids Fish Hatchery spawn collection is at its highest population in years.

Motion to accept Board Reports.

Moved by W. Mowatt and Seconded by G. Flett

CARRIED

10.0 Adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

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

Friday, June 27th, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

- 13.0 Call to Order** – at 9:01 A.M. by R. Meade.
- 14.0 Draft Audit Review**, Alex Yaworski, Fort Group, Chartered Professional Accountants audit partner for the past 12 years, retiring after 35 years of service. Bradley Keith has transitioned with him these past 4 years.
- 15.0 Unfinished Business and General Orders**
- 15.1 Strategic Plan**
Brought forward by L. Payeur to share the Strategic Plan with the membership.
Moved by F. Parenteau, Seconded by D. J. Chu **CARRIED**
- 15.1.1 Review draft and acceptance
Moved by W. Mowatt, Seconded by D. Popwich **CARRIED**
- 15.2 2023 AGM**
- 15.2.1 Agenda
L. Payeur updated members of confirmed speakers and pending invitation requests for the NACC 51st Annual General Meeting.
The session with Northern Healthy Foods Initiative (NHFI) is to introduce new members of initiatives that include food security in northern and remote communities in Manitoba, and NACC is one of NHFI's partners.
The session with L. Kerry Vickar Business Law Clinic is to introduce members to the free legal assistance that the clinic provides and is operated by law students of the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba. All information and services by law students are supervised by experienced lawyers. Communities can bring concerns such as dog by-laws, resolutions, etc. to them for legal assistance.
- 15.2.2 Board Biographies – shared and updated.
- 15.2.3 Board Attendance/Duties – discussed.
- 15.2.4 Regional Meetings
- 15.2.4.1 Elections
ACTION: L. Payeur will provide daily sign-in sheets which will be announced during the event information and housekeeping session. Additionally, color-coded ballots for Vice-Chairperson and Secretary/Treasure ballots will be ready for the elections. Each position will have its own ballot.
- 15.2.4.2 Resolutions
L. Payeur clarified to members that all resolutions from communities are expected to be read at the Annual General Meeting as indicated in the NACC guidelines. Members unanimously agreed that each Regional Chairperson will be provided incomplete resolutions and that each chairperson contact councils that these incomplete resolutions be re-submitted with specific details prior to the AGM.
- 15.3 Executive Board Meetings**
Discussion regarding full board engagement in comparison to executive meetings.

MOTION: That Executive meetings continue with draft minutes being shared to the full board as available, and that any report inquiries prior to minutes being passed are directed to the reporting member.

*Moved by F. Parenteau, Seconded by H. Fleming
2 Against, 1 Abstained*

CARRIED

16.0 New Business

16.1.1 Decline Urban Systems Climate Change request this year. NACC to advise Urban Systems that the AGM agenda has Urban Systems scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 2023 session.

Moved by W. Mowatt, Seconded by G. Flett

CARRIED

16.1.2 W. Mowatt motioned that the Flin Flon Arts Council be removed from the Wednesday, August 23, 2023 session and replaced so that the Emcee introduces the Break Out sessions.

Moved by W. Mowatt, Seconded by F. Parenteau

CARRIED

16.1.3 W. Mowatt brought forward a motion to invite a dancer from the Frontier School Division to perform at our opening ceremonies. L. Payeur will contact April Krahn, Assistant Superintendent of Indigenous Way of Life to obtain information to contact the family.

Moved by W. Mowatt, Seconded by G. Flett

CARRIED

16.1.4 CAO training of the SAGE system will occur on the morning of Tuesday, August 22nd, 2023 as funds have been set aside. The intent of SAGE self-directed training is for a question-and-answer period to support them as they navigate the program. A recommendation is to appeal to our longstanding CAOs to mentor newly appointed CAOs.

Moved by W. Mowatt, Seconded by G. Flett

CARRIED

17.0 Next Meeting

The next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for **July 18th, 2023**

The next full Board Meeting is scheduled for **August 21st at 5:30 p.m.**

18.0 Adjournment – called by G. Flett at 3:44 P.M.

Northern Association of Community Councils

Board Meeting

Executive Director Report – June 26, 2023

AGM

- To date, we have secured \$6000.00 sponsorship with follow-up on two to take place in the near future
- To date we have 28 tradeshow tables booked
- Grand Prize will be two return flights from any Perimeter Air destination, a two-night stay at Canad Inns, \$300 Altos credit, four Zoo passes and four Human Rights Museum passes. Approximate value of prize \$1,500.00

Finance

- Awaiting NHFI Core funding grant agreement and payment – long overdue – have followed up with IRNR on four occasions
- Awaiting NACC Core Funding Agreement to be followed by the first payment – long overdue have followed up with IRNR on three occasions
- Followed up on noted increase of \$1,300 audit charges – they provided the supporting documents requested.
- Continuation of requests for Audit documents – random selection requesting of copies – third round of document delivery via portal
- Seeking new auditor quotes as this is the third and final year of the rate agreement with Fort Group. Requests for quotes were sent to: Fort Group, Matt Solvenson Chartered Accountants, Mangus Chartered Accountants and Rawluk & Robert Chartered Accountants
- Have not received any response from the Government of Canada Student Summer jobs to date therefore it would be safe to assume we did not make the budget this year.
- We have received our Manitoba Companies Office Certificate of Amendment and annual renewal.
- Received news from Fort Group that former employee T. Knight had written them expressing concerns about Board expense requests/reporting. Spoke with Alex Yaworski, auditor, and assured them that all was being processed in accordance with policy and records (e.g. receipts).

IRNR

- Attended the three-day regional meetings held in Winnipeg from June 6 to 8. During the three days, several side meetings were requested including those with Rico from IRNR Finance to discuss property tax collection, Camperville, Moose Lake, and Sherridon. Noted was that several IRNR senior staff spoke about the importance of NACC for shared communities.
- Attended the retirement reception for Eileen Clarke held on May 30th. She will be remaining in her current position until the fall election. NACC presented her with a NACC jacket, box of chocolates and a card from NACC Board and staff.

Members

- Received communication from two communities noting information that was discussed at the NACC meeting table. To confirm:
 - It is Board policy, for each position held, that meeting talk outside of what is recorded in the minutes, stays at the table
 - 'In-camera' means that it is not to be included in the minutes or shared in any fashion
 - Conflict or confidential conversation that occurs in the absence of an attendant (they were requested to leave the room for a part of the meeting), is also 'incamera' outside of the documented resolutions
- Met virtually with Census Canada regarding the high number of miscounts – seeking an update. They noted the numbers should have been adjusted online for some of the communities if not that day, then the next. In review of the same, none of the 2021 census numbers initially reported and disputed have been addressed.

Partnerships

- Participated in the annual CCEDNet Gathering attending two sessions. The first workshop was on Conflict Resolution followed by a review and discussion of the member resolutions submitted for action this coming fiscal.
- Accepted a seat on the Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters Policy and Advocacy Committee. This is a volunteer role that will serve to impact water safety in our communities.
- Spoke with Chris Preston of Census Canada. Most of the community review submissions are still awaiting resolution. They are working with Mike Weizner of the Manitoba Bureau of Stats to obtain numbers that are more in line with actual community populations.
- It is imperative that if we seek a strong healthy partnership with IRNR per the last strategic plan, we speak of them with respect and consideration. This also pertains to our membership – that we support their efforts, offer our services and engagement.

Staff

- Talon Knight's employment with NACC as the Administrative Assistant was terminated, with cause, on June 12 with the final payment including vacation pay and one week's severance pay settled on June 23rd. ROE completed June 23rd.
- Received the actual number of 101 applications for the Administrative Assistant job posting, shortlisted to 23 then 11 with interviews scheduled for 4.
- It was requested that I explore NACC staff pension plans. Typically, an employee/employer match program ranges between 3 to 7% with a noted maximum that an employer will contribute (in some cases employees wish to contribute a higher than the employer rate). Using the rate of 4%, a staff employee plan benefit would on average incur a total contribution of approximately \$6,300.00 per annum.
- I will be taking July 7th off.