

NORTHEAST ROUNDTABLE SESSION 2

Meeting Notes

Wednesday November 21st, 2018

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Northeast Roundtable Session 2 – Meeting Notes

Type of Meeting:	In-person
Date:	Wednesday November 21 st , 2018
Time:	10:00am – 3:00pm
Location:	Health Unit, Fort St. John
Handouts:	Agenda Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and Site C Land Agreement Selections Halfway River First Nation (HRFN) Presentation
Attachments:	Appendix A – Attendees

Doors opened at 9:30am and registration commenced. Participants were asked to seat themselves at one of the three tables.

1.0 Introductions

Ellen Frisch of Two Worlds Consulting (TWC, formerly TJC Consulting) reviewed the meeting agenda and discussed the process that would be implemented to commence engagement on land selection parcels. The meeting agenda was reviewed, with a focus on moving into specific engagement. During the meeting, feedback was to be gathered in order to inform decision makers.

Participants introduced themselves and the group or organization they represented, as well as their interests and expectations for the meeting. TWC noted that feedback on the meeting and the process would be sought following the meeting. The following expectations and comments were noted by individuals:

- attendees require provision of information and land selection maps in advance of meetings to have the appropriate regional attendees or advance feedback on their interests;
- need a fulsome discussion of issues;
- there is a commitment to building a real engagement process;
- need a true understanding of all the components of negotiations;
- protecting Pink Mountain is a priority and understanding other interests; and,
- need to understand the forested land base impacts of the land transfers.

The Government of British Columbia provided the following comments and responses:

- engagement with tenure holders is a separate process; and,
- BC wants to ensure that there was enough time to obtain feedback at meetings, and allow for feedback after each session.

Three informational posters were provided for reference on the following topics:

- the Roundtable principles;
- the Land Transfer Process; and
- relationships of First Nations, governments and stakeholders/the public.

TWC confirmed that today the participant groups would be looking at Halfway River First Nation land selections, all at different stages of development. The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) provided a recap regarding Treaty Land Entitlement.

2.0 “Past Business” – Action Items from Previous Meeting

Follow-up items from the first Northeast Roundtable Meeting on September 26th, 2018 were addressed, including updated versions of the Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct, and Action Items List. These items were not reviewed in detail at the meeting in order to progress to discussion of the detailed topics listed above. The following comments were noted about the Roundtable process:

- BC has a government-to-government relationship with First Nations;
- license/tenure holders are on a different engagement track; and,
- the statutory decision makers for implementing land use decisions are with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development’s (FLNRORD).

Ellen Frisch asked for feedback on the previous Roundtable meeting. A participant asked to ensure that parcel maps are received well in advance of the proceeding Roundtable, something that was previously requested at the September 26th meeting.

3.0 MIRR - Opening Comments and Topic 1

Dale Morgan of MIRR stated this was the first time the Ministry has undertaken a facilitation initiative like this, and that MIRR is committed to an effective engagement process. Dale said that MIRR would ask for feedback on the engagement process at the end of the day.

Meghan Buckham of MIRR presented an overview of the Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) and Site C Land Agreement Selections for the Halfway River First Nation (HRFN). TLE land is land entitled to northeastern First Nations through Treaty 8 signed in 1914, however, the land never provided to the Nations. Land parcels to be transferred through the TLE process are either TLE Shortfall Lands, or TLE Additional Lands. Further, additional lands have been promised as part of Site C Land Agreement. Following the presentation, the facilitated discussion began.

Using table-top maps, the facilitators led a discussion regarding the proposed HRFN parcels. The parcel maps covered two areas of interest selected by HRFN for TLE and Site C Land Agreement Lands: Chowade and Tsaa Nuna. Meeting participants were split into three groups and reviewed a large 2’ x 4’ map and set of 11” x 17” parcel maps. For each group, a facilitator recorded comments from the group for each parcel including access, rights and impacts of the land transfer. Lands were proposed to be

transferred by a range of mechanisms, in fee simple (private land) or as an “Addition to Reserve”, with the intent that the land become federal jurisdiction. Participants used sticky notes to make comments directly on the maps. A list of parcels by parcel number was provided for reference.

Lunch Break – 12:15 – 12:45

4.0 Treaty Land Entitlement Transfer – Plenary Discussion

TWC provided a summary of common themes and comments received from each group following discussion of the areas of interest: Chowade (1 map, 1 parcel) and Tsaa Nuna (1 map, 3 parcels).  Participants highlighted the necessity for the continued assessment of needs, collaboration, and dialogue with local governments and stakeholders concerning all parcels of land.

Chowade

The Chowade area of interest consists of 100 ha and is the heartland of the HRFN people, selected for its substantial cultural and spiritual significance. Being the  original place of the HRFN, many elders were born here. Winter and summer camps, in addition to burial sites, are maintained throughout the valley, including the area in the TLE land selection. Land in the Chowade area will be transferred with the intention that it will become reserve lands. HRFN intends to leave the core area in its current state for hunting. Participants’ main concern was continued access to the region (not the parcel) via existing roads and trails. The possibility of compensation for loss of access and concern surrounding land use change and its effects on caribou were noted. One comment pertained to ensuring that the maps show trapline boundaries. A member from HRFN noted it is one of their community members who has the trapline license in the region.

Tsaa Nuna

The Tsaa Nuna area of interest is divided into three regions for land transfer, cumulatively totaling approximately 5,700 ha, selected for its cultural values and economic importance. Tsaa Nuna is near the HRFN community and has high potential for economic development from subsurface resources. Shortfall Land in the Tsaa Nuna area will be transferred as Reserve Land and Additional Land may be purchased by HRFN; this land may be considered for Addition to Reserve through Canada’s process. Participants also advised that maintaining access through existing or new routes is the main concern of land transfer.

Participants highlighted other interests and issues including:

- identifying trapline boundaries;
- subsurface resource rights;
- logging feasibility;
- proximity to the area;
- conservancy at the border of proposed lands; and,
- the transfer of water bodies.

The Tsa'a Nuna parcel borders a land conservancy which was not identified on the maps. HRFN noted that they have private property north of the conservancy. There were comments regarding how FLNRORD will maintain the annual allowable cut for the broader regional Timber Supply area with all the land removals.

Forestry representatives in attendance noted there are no active five year cut blocks in any of the proposed parcels. Snowmobile association representatives confirmed there are no active winter recreation trails in use by their groups. MIRR advised the need to engage with the Chief Forester and that the annual allowable cut will be maintained at the current level. Another participant mentioned the cumulative impact around land management. Each meeting has separate maps, and there is a bigger picture around how much is going on at the same time. There were comments noted regarding whether lakes and river bodies are included in land transfers.

5.0 Land Use Planning in the Fort St. John Timber Supply Area

The Fort St. John Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) was identified as a priority topic at the first Roundtable Meeting. Fred Oliemans of FLNRORD presented an overview of the LRMP and its proposed updates, followed by a dialogue facilitated by TWC. Below is a list of the questions posed, common themes, priorities, recommendations, and actions from the dialogue.

- A participant asked who will be at the LRMP table. Concern was expressed that the public will not be there.
 - It was requested that the public be engaged early in the LRMP process. Fred Oliemans confirmed this would be done, however, this is a very short timeline and is focused on a 'refresh' of the existing plan and will not follow the same process formula.
 - A participant stated they were part of the original LRMP planning process and asked if original participants would be engaged. Fred Oliemans stated they will reach out to previous LRMP members. Any former LRMP members were invited to contact Genevieve Patterson of FLNRORD.
- Fred Oliemans stated there is no intention to "re-write" the LRMP. Currently, front-end scoping work is being done. Issues from present day relate to past issues, therefore some sections will stay the same and other sections will need to be updated. In terms of timelines, scoping of the report will be undertaken for Spring 2019. Following the scoping exercise, the two-year update process of the LRMP will begin.
- Fred Oliemans stated there is an opportunity for First Nations to co-lead planning. Discussion has taken place with the Blueberry River First Nation and offers will be extended to other First Nations to co-lead planning.
- How well does the Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (RSEA) process fit in with revising the LRMP?
 - Fred Oliemans stated he was unsure how these two processes work together. Further, their timing does not align as the LRMP will be ahead of the RSEA process. Fred stated whatever results from the RSEA will need to be viewed from a variety of lenses, not just environmental.

- Treaty 8 First Nations did not participate in the LRMP because they could not reach agreement with the BC Government. As a result, the existing LRMP does not address the Nations' Rights.
- A participant noted that the RSEA is being undertaken collaboratively with all but one of the Treaty 8 Nations with a focus of optimizing treaty rights in the area. He also commented that the Crown must balance the Rights of First Nations and other interests; this will raise both sets of interests to an optimum level. An interest was expressed in linking the RSEA and the Fort St. John LRMP. There was also a comment that there are species indicators for wildlife, and that scenario modeling will incorporate options for having healthy wildlife populations.
- Fred Oliemans commented that they are looking at the socio-economic assessment scenarios coming out of the RSEA and these can be part of the base case. He also noted that the land use plans which have involved First Nations are far better plans. It was asked what methodology for the LRMP will be used.
 - Fred Oliemans stated that the government will require the costs and benefits of "scenarios". Moose and caribou were identified in the RSEA as "keystone creatures". Concern was raised that changes to the LRMP will drive changes in other areas (particularly for forestry).
- Interested Roundtable members were asked to contact Genevieve Patterson directly as soon as possible.

6.0 Updates

MIRR provided updates on the following topics: caribou management, Doig River First Nation land selections, the Govtogether Website, and an overview of TLE land selections.

Caribou Management

Dale Morgan provided an update on caribou management for the northeastern region. Southern Mountain Caribou has been declared by the Federal Government as a Species at Risk (SAR). The BC Government is actively working with the Federal Government to create a bilateral agreement (Section 11), rather than moving to a federal order. Caribou are an important issue for Treaty 8 First Nations. With respect to the Boreal Caribou Management Plan, it is not on a fast track. Information will be made public in the following week. The Peace River Regional District Chair noted that the District will be hosting a meeting with Provincial officials. The meeting is open to the public and will be posted on their website.

Doig River First Nation Land Selections

Tara Forest of MIRR provided an update regarding Doig River First Nation (DRFN) land selections. DRFN is hosting a public "World Café" session on their proposed TLE selections on December 5, 2018 at the Northern Grand Hotel. Invitations for this meeting were distributed to Roundtable participants. Land selections discussed at the session will be brought back to the next Roundtable meeting. The DRFN roundtable  will most likely occur before letters are sent out to tenure holders.

Govtogether Website

The Govtogether engagement website will be coming online soon. Information and maps related to all the land selections discussed at the Roundtable will be posted on the site. This will allow an opportunity for further review and comment, and ease of sharing with Roundtable organization members.

Overview of TLE

Today, HRFN land selections were discussed. The Doig River First Nations Land Selections will be one of the TLE land selections presented and discussed at the next Roundtable meeting.

7.0 Feedback from Roundtable

TWC and MIRR asked for feedback on the day's meeting and materials provided. The following suggestions were proposed:

- provide information in advance of the next Roundtable meeting (at least three weeks before) especially spatial data, otherwise postpone the meeting;
- find a larger meeting venue than the Health Unit and with better parking options;
- daytime meetings are preferred, and the food was well received;
- need larger TV screens at the right level for viewing;
- ensure enough time between meetings, as it was expressed the second meeting occurred too soon after the first; and,
- provide a “big picture” map to show surrounding areas.

8.0 Next Meeting and Adjournment

A meeting summary, action list, accountabilities and timelines will be distributed. Information for the third Northeast Roundtable Meeting will be sent out to participants three weeks in advance to share with their groups and organizations, specifically parcel maps. The next meeting will again be held in a daytime format, on January 30, 2019, and will cover caribou management and DRFN land selections.

Action Items:

Item	Responsibility	Status	Due
Meeting Summary and Actions/Timelines to Participants	MIRR	Complete	Dec. 10, 2018
LRMP presentation provided to participants	FLNRORD	In Progress	Dec. 12, 2018
Provide Govtogether website address	FLNRORD/MIRR	In Progress	Dec. 12, 2018
Meeting agenda, PPTs and maps (shapefiles) for third Roundtable meeting	MIRR	In Progress	Jan. 7, 2019

Appendix A - Attendees

Attendees – Stakeholders and First Nations

Name	Title, Organization	Email
Audit, Joyce	Councillor, Halfway River First Nation	jaudit@hrfn.ca
Bertrand, Keith	Mayor of Tumbler Ridge	kbertrand@dtr.ca
Bueckert, Peter	Northland Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club	northlandtrailblazers@hotmail.com
Burkhart, Tim	Peace Region Coordinator, Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative	Tim@y2y.net
Courtoreille, Allen	Mayor, District of Chetwynd (or Councillor as alternate)	d-chet@gochetwynd.com
Ensz, Ray	President, Fort St. John Trappers Association	rbensz@shaw.ca
Fraser, Rob	Mayor, District of Taylor	MayorFraser@districtoftaylor.com
Gibbons, Jon	Woodlands Manager, Fort St. John, Canadian Forest Products Ltd.	Jon.Gibbons@canfor.com
Gould, Clinton	Operations Planner, Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd. - Dawson Creek Forest Resources Division	Clinton.Gould@LPCorp.com
Hansen, Lilia	Executive Director, Fort St John & District Chamber of Commerce	info@fsjchamber.com
Heiberg, Dave	District of Hudson's Hope	dave@hudsonshope.ca
Holland, Barry	North Peace Rod and Gun Club	wbholland394@gmail.com
Hunter, Dianne	City Manager, City of Fort St John	citymanager@fortstjohn.ca
Little, Jim	NE Stakeholders	mackeno@xplornet.ca
Long, Ron	UBC Botanical Gardens	rlphoto@shaw.ca
Maundrell, Glynnis	Charlie Lake Conservation Society	gmaundrell@prn.bc.ca
McConnell, Mike	Regional Cattlemen	mmccconnell@pris.ca
Metecheah, Maizie	Councillor, Halfway River First Nation	mmetecheah@hrfn.ca
Mulholland, Christy	Strategic Relations Specialist, BC Oil and Gas Commission	Christy.Mulholland@BCOGC.ca
Newsom, Carol	Chief Administrative Officer, District of Chetwynd	CNewsom@gochetwynd.com
Nyhuus, Peter	Halfway River First Nation	peter@dgwlaw.ca
Paille, Gerry	BC Wildlife Federation	gpaille@me.com
Rosen, Don	Woodlands Manager Chetwynd Division, Canadian Forest Products Ltd.	Don.Rosen@canfor.com
Smith, David	Smith Fuel Services Ltd.	davidsmith@smithfuelservices.ca
Sperling, Brad	PRRD Chair, Director Area C	brad.sperling@prrd.bc.ca
Stratuliak, Brian	Director PRRC (Peace River Regional Cattlemen's)	kiskgelb@pris.ca
Suderman, Dale	Louisiana Pacific Canada	Dale.Suderman@lpcorp.com
Webb, Jim	Policy Advisor, WMFN	jwebb@incentre.net
Wilson, Donegal	Executive Director, BC Snowmobile Federation	dwilson@bcsf.org
Zabinsky, Tony	City Councillor, Fort St John	tzabinsky@fortstjohn.ca



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