

NORTHEAST ROUNDTABLE SESSION 15 – MEETING NOTES

Date: May 25th, 2022

Time: 08:45 – 15:00

Location: Virtual MS Teams

Attendees:

Government:

- Jason Lawson (FLNRORD)
- Shayla Blue (FLNRORD)
- Tyler Annand (FLNRORD)
- Chris Cooper (FLNRORD)
- Kelly Cook (FLNRORD)
- Tara Forest (IRR)
- Katie Connah (FLNRORD)
- Aviva Jones (FLNRORD)
- Joelle Ward (FLNRORD)
- Tara Forest (IRR)
- Dale Morgan (IRR)
- Chris Pasztor (EMLI)
- Nicole Edginton (EMLI)
- Michael Huck (FLNRORD)
- Karilyn Vince (FLNRORD)
- Darin Hancock (FLNRORD)
- David Elliott (FLNRORD)
- Angela White (FLNRORD)
- Carmela Arevalo (FLNRORD)
- Ali Seyed (FLNRORD)
- Anna Regnier (FLNRORD)
- Ian Curtis (FLNRORD)
- Sara Dickinson (OGC)
- Rebecca Penz (IRR)
- Stephanie Smith (FLNRORD)

Municipal:

- Kathleen Connolly (DC Chamber of Commerce)
- Cheryl Montgomery (FSJ Chamber of Commerce)
- Carol Newsom (District of Chetwynd)
- Allen Courtoreille (District of Chetwynd)
- Brad Sperling (PRRD)
- Bev Vandersteen (FN Chamber of Commerce)
- Rob Fraser (District of Taylor)

First Nations:

- Ryan McKay (SFN)
- Catherine Piedt (HRFN)
- Jim Webb (WMFN)

Stakeholders:

- Jim Little (NE Stakeholders)
- Andy Ackerman (NE Stakeholders)
- Gerry Paille (BC Wildlife Federation)
- Charles Friesen (LP)
- Athena Andritz (LP)
- Antonio Pega (LP)
- Sarah Curtis (LP)
- Glen Goymer (Canfor)
- Mark Phinney (Canfor)
- Tim Shaw (NorthRiver Midstream)
- Wayne Sawchuck (Muskwa Kechika Advisory Board)
- Barry Holland (Muskwa Kechika Advisory Board)
- Jonathan Buchanan (AMEBC)
- David Smith (Charlie Lake Resident)
- Elizabeth Abbs (Summit Lake Resident)
- Donegal Wilson (BC Snowmobile Federation)
- Johnny Mikes (MKAB / CPAWS)
- Graham O'Day
- Helen Gilbert (School District 60)
- Lauren Whyte (Clean Energy)
- Rob Chipman (BCWF)
- Shannon Morrow (NENAS)
- Wade Pruett (TC Energy)
- Japasa
- Joyce

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Meeting Reference Materials Available Online at [NE Roundtable website](#):

- Ministry Restructuring
- General Updates
 - Land and Resource Management Plan
 - Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment
 - Fish and Wildlife Projects
- Treaty Land Entitlement
- Collaboration with Treaty 8 First Nations in the Northeast
- Hunting Regulations Update
- Partnership Agreement Implementation
- Draft Boreal Caribou Protection and Recovery Plan
- Honouring Treaty 8

Welcome, Agenda, Minutes

- Jason Lawson as facilitator welcomed, territorial acknowledgement, and MS Teams info.
- Shayla Blue did introductions for the attendance record we did not decipher between the 2 new ministries, Ministry of Forest (FOR) and Ministry of Land, Water, and Resource Stewardship (LRWS).
- Materials provided on website for review by roundtable members.
- Question: I am wondering if anyone has any updates on what is happening with moose population and helping with tick situation. This year we are seeing a lot of moose with tick.
 - Response: I don't think anyone with the specific information is available right now in this meeting. However, we can have it as an agenda item for next meeting.

1. Ministry Restructuring

Darin Hancock provided a presentation on the Ministry of Forest restructuring. Ministry overviews, [FOR](#) and [LWRS](#), uploaded to [NE Roundtable website](#).

- Question: When will organization charts be available?
 - Response: They are available now and can be shared.
 - **Action:** Send new organizational charts to NE Roundtable members.
 - **Update:** Organizational charts posted to the NE Roundtable website [FOR](#) and [LWRS](#).
- Question: Can you briefly speak on how wildlife management works now and where the people are? How are decisions and implementation of on the ground actions going to work now?
 - Response: Eco-biologists and habitat specialists are in LWRS, permitting will sit with Forests. There is a lot of grey between Ministry of Forest and LWRS, the grey area is the

wildlife piece and not clear to us yet. This area is being referred to as the transition area and it traps a lot of wildlife issues.

- Question: Under the Wildlife Act the SDM has been defined. Has the government thought through the legal part?
 - Response: Greg Van Dolah still maintains his wildlife decision making in the Northeast, and we have a decision maker in the Omineca supporting as well.
- Comment: I don't see Fish and Wildlife here. I don't see ADM for fish and wildlife or director of resource for fish and wildlife. There is just forest. People don't go to ministry of forest for fish and wildlife, they want to talk with fish and wildlife guy.
 - Response: The Fish and Wildlife team remain with Ministry of Forest and some of the wildlife staff are with me the LWRS planning. To your point about director: There is some move to have a DRM and I know there is something in progress as a fish and wildlife business line.
- Comment: There are many decisions for Fish and Wildlife but there is no representative for Fish and Wildlife. It is concerning that they seem to have lost their identity and people will have a hard time understanding where to go.
- Comment: The public need to have a full understanding of who the government is and who they can talk to?
 - Response: Confirmed, we're working on it.

2. General Updates

- **Land and Resource Management Plan**

Shayla Blue provided an [update on the LRMP](#) which is posted on the NE Roundtable website.

No comments were received.

- **Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Chris Pasztor provided an update on RSEA.

- Comment: It's clear in the action plan that it's related to the 3 governments, where do stakeholders fit into this project and process as the government starts to implement. Regarding the DRIPA action plan, it's going to inform decisions moving forward, where do stakeholders fit into these processes. 5 years is not a long time.
 - Response: DRIPA is 2 years old now, and it has aspirational ideas in there. It's not going to happen shortly. A lot of this is going to involve stakeholder engagement. This model is how were looking to recreate it across the province (roundtable), as well as direct engagement with industry and groups. It's evolving with the declaration as well, and the province is planning on a lot of engagement. The intent is to bring public and stakeholders along with the declaration.
- Comment: Engagement has been after the fact to date. Engagement means 'during', and we aren't seeing much room for stakeholders in these important conversations. All the stakeholders being impacted by these decisions have a lot of knowledge and should be

brought in when they can still have a say. Engagement is a key part of moving forward for everyone, if we don't do that, we're going to run into roadblocks.

- Response: Thank you for your comment.
- Comment: Relating to the TLE engagement, let's do some engagement beforehand – not after. Government has failed the people in its transparency process.
 - Response: Thank you for your comment.

3. Fish and Wildlife Projects

[Wildlife inventory projects update](#) is posted to the NE Roundtable website.

Jason: Michel was not able to attend but I will provide the information he provided. Michel is with Ministry of Forests and he is section head for fish and wildlife. What he has updates are some of the inventory work over the last year and what is coming for this year

- Question: 7-57 and 7-58 is where wolves have been removed due to the wolf removal. There are high moose populations, and they seem to be resilient to industrial activity in the BRFN claim area.
- Comment: It is apparent that we should use science to determine allocation.
 - Response: Thank you for your comment.

4. Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE)

Tara Forest and Dale Morgan provided a high level update on TLE.

- Question: Will we have an update on the TLE voting process?
 - Response: The BRFN voting process is internal to Blueberry. Once the ratification vote has been completed, Blueberry will let us know if they have ratified their agreements. The Federal government is responsible for the TLE financial settlement.
- Question: If Blueberry River First Nations' vote doesn't pass then what happens?
 - Response: We would have to take a step back and understand how the situation didn't work.
- Comment: There has been a reflection on the selections around Summit Lake. Is there a pause in terms of the consideration of these parcels for further consideration of other factors?
 - Response: West Moberly First Nations (West Moberly) parcels at Summit Lake will be moving forward to the next stages of land transfer. Sauleau has something in the area but this has not been ratified. West Moberly has five parcels in the Summit Lake area.
- Comment: The Summit Lake parcels, and through the agreements will be fee simple land. They are far from the ancestral territory of West Moberly. What is the intent of these parcels that we can rely on?
 - The Province cannot speak on behalf of West Moberly's intentions with this land.
- Comment: We have asked to remain fee simple in the Summit Lake watershed, we are asking it to not be transferred as federal lands. If we cannot have local governance over the watershed.
 - Response: Applying for federal Addition to Reserve is a decision that is up to West Moberly.

- Comment: Incident to the TLE negotiation, West Moberly undertook an extensive study that documented the relationship of MLIB and the membership of the West Moberly peoples – they are closely interrelated for the past 2 hundred years. They shared territories. West Moberly can understand people around the lake being concerned. Canada and West Moberly are the parties to seek a transfer to reserve land.
- Question: Fee simple lands means they must follow the regional regulations?
 - Response: That is correct.
- Question: Are we moving towards in person meetings?
 - Response: Yes, we are looking to have in person meetings at some point soon, and depending on health guidance and requirements
- Question: Engagement is all parties, before decisions being made. Wholesome discussion to understand reasons. Where are we at with meeting with Chief and Council?
 - Response: We do want to support future engagement with nations and their neighbours. Blueberry River needs time to decide whether to accept their TLE first.
- Comment: Minister Rankin said MIRR would set up meeting for us.
 - We need to give Blueberry the space to vote on their TLE package. Once Blueberry has made their choice through a community vote, then we can help set up a meeting.

5. Collaboration with T8 First Nations in the Northeast

Dale Morgan and Sara Dickinson provided an update on collaboration with T8 First Nations.

- Question: There are a lot of misinformation or no-communication that industry needs to have a better understanding of. Is there a resource centre where NE stakeholders can access to understand why decisions are being made? Government hasn't done a good job with regional education to help the public understand what is being done and why its being done.
 - Response: There is existing communication and media – we have the NE roundtable; the province is also working on a media strategy – it's still in development. We can't report out on what it looks like, but these are tools that we are developing.
- Comment: We could have saved a lot of time if we had been told that this process was going to be done without consideration of all communities affected. We were told at the beginning about a collaborative process where concerns would be addressed and used in decision making. TLE needs to happen. It is long overdue. But let's not let the government divide our communities further by being so dismissive of those concerns. Reach out to the first nations councils and try to engage. Do not wait for the government to do it for you. Jim Webb is right.
- Question: Hunting Regulations and allocations, we're due to have a 2-year period begin. The Allocation process is supposed to start 2022, is this still the case?
 - Response: Please bring this comment to the Hunting Regulation piece.

6. Hunting Regulations Update

David Skerik provided an update on the hunting regulations.

- Comment: Hunting Regulations and allocations, we're due to have a 2-year period begin. The Allocation process is supposed to start 2022, is this still the case?
 - Response: We are not making 5-year allocation decision for Moose, we are looking to provide certainty and flexibility for guide outfitting for moose. Establishing a term of reference for the wildlife working group.
- Question: Notice to require compulsory reporting – is this going to apply for everyone. How are you going to gather the data from First Nations?
 - Response: Yes, compulsory reporting will be implemented – it is mandatory. That's been updated and controlled online. I don't think you can get your licence without completing the compulsory reporting. There is no compulsory reporting for the T8 nations.
- Comment: If we are going to manage moose populations, we need all the numbers. How will you get that data for the sake of everyone?
 - Response: We want to have an objective set – once we get that information then we can implement our science-based management.
- Comment: Please consider that there will be a reduction for the month of October given the environmental challenges.
 - Response: Thank you for that, there will be an opportunity to provide feedback so that we can improve and change.
- Comment: In this world, you can't rely on science-based approach for wildlife management, the approach must incorporate science and traditional knowledge – which must arrive through collaboration. This notion of meaningful exercise of the right to hunt, it is a complicated practice. 3 nations have documented through a harvest survey, what their actual harvest was, what there need for country foods – traditional seasonal round. Currently the FNs are only achieving about 20% of their need, they are not able to hunt in accordance with their way of life, in the areas that they prefer to hunt to meet their needs because of habitat degradation, too many things that interfere with their way of life exist. One that allows FN experts to sit with provincial experts to define what meaningful practice of rights means – how many moose must be removed from the allocation process. First Nations will probably never in T8 agree to compulsory reporting because they are a separate government system. Their government can tell their members what they can hunt – and then their government can discuss that with the province. These things must be sorted out.
- Comment: Without a baseline of facts how do you measure success? How many LEH permits are offered? How do you measure 50% reduction?
 - Response: The 50% reduction is based on a 5 year trailing average of BC licenced hunting.

- What is movement if any towards LEH for all species as there was mention of adding sheep to LEH?
 - Response: Not planning LEH for Stone's sheep currently. Big Horn population work is happening which will inform management direction. No LEH for other species at this time.

7. Partnership Agreement Implementation

- Joelle Ward provided an update.
- **Action:** Joelle to commit to a note on the Central Group land use objectives.
 - **Update:** *There is a draft set of potential land use objectives however the process for establishment is currently on pause to align with negotiations and outcomes associated with Treaty 8 First Nations and Blueberry River First Nations occurs. Engagement with local communities is critical to reconciliation, recovery success, and to integrate economic, social, and cultural values into options, while mitigating legal risk of protection orders under the Species at Risk Act.*
- Comment: Do we have any information on the Grizzly bear video collaring data?
 - **Action:** Joelle can follow up on the project lead on that.
 - **Update:** Posted on the NE roundtable website is the [Grizzly Bear Predation on Caribou Calf Survival in the Klinse-Za Herd 21-22 summary report](#). The researchers are in the process of trying to figure out how to move forward and secure funding.
- Question: Has the board been established?
 - **Action:** Joelle will follow up the project lead.
 - **Update:** South Peace/Mackenzie Economic and Stabilization Trust, the Board has been established. The Board Trustee is Eric Van Soeren and he should be contacted for more information (eric@vansoeren.net). The weblink is: [SpmTrust - South Peace MacKenzie Trust](#)

8. Draft Boreal Caribou Protection and Recovery Plan

- Michael Huck provided an update.
- Comment: Implementation of predator management was a major topic in the northern rockies, how the program gets developed is up for discussion for how we are wanting to bring everyone together. It is the intention to develop a predator management plan in partnership with Fort Nelson First Nation and include all those who have existing trapping rights in the program development.
- Comment: looking at the engagement site, kudos to the government for how the information was presented was well done. The information was presented very well.
- Question: Is there a recovery plan for the Chinchaga heard?
 - Response: The Chinchaga range was intended to be included in the LRMP. There has been a Chinchaga working group comprised of interested FNs and provincial staff. They

delineated core mapping. We paused Chinchaga planning work at the same time as the LRMP and we're waiting on the future of land use planning for this area.

- Is there a chance we can share the core mapping?
 - **Action:** Michael Huck will follow up to provide the mapping.
 - **Update:** Michael shared the Chinchaga core linework with TSA 40 licensees.

10. Honouring Treaty 8

- Rebecca Penz and Kelly Cook provided a presentation
- Comment: Can you define what honouring means?
 - At the most basic level, the province has obligations to meet that are set out in the Treaty. Respecting and honouring Treaty 8 means building relationships with First Nations based on mutual respect and awareness of the past; fixing historical wrongs, including shortfalls in promised lands, and addressing cumulative effects of development; and working in partnership to make decisions about land and resources that honour Treaty 8 while balancing the economy, local jobs and the environment.
- Comment: There's a massive gap in understanding how government communicates and how communities hear them. Gov hasn't done a good job engaging with the stakeholders to create avenues of knowledge sharing. Chamber of commerce has done a lot of work to create opportunities of education, please help us bridge to relationships the local level.
 - ⊖ Response: The province welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Chambers of Commerce to support this work.
- Comment: Government is very behind on this; success will depend on the how. If you're going to lecture people about all the rights, it's not going to go over well. It's not governments responsibility to reconcile the individual's responsibility. You're going to have to get out there to have that talk with them, relay what Treaty 8 rights are and get some feedback from them for face to face.
- Comment: There needs to be a sense of urgency for this. Public engagement needs to have a sense of urgency, we need to have a basic understanding of the treaty of the public. That agreement goes both ways, the obligations that have been made. How the impacts have impacted treaty rights, real reconciliation will happen at the local level. There needs to be a common understanding of what Treaty Rights are.
- Comment: Present to the regional board is a start, open and transparent. Working together and understanding. This needs to be done right now.
 - Response: Understood.
- Comment: There is a deep trust issue in the NE, all huge promises of engagement and very little actually happened. This leaves us in a difficult situation, and our communities are more divided. We need to find common understanding.
- Question: As you're building this, do you have a team of knowledge sharers who will help you build these messages?
 - Response: Not yet but we are moving towards that. Collaboration is our goal.

- Comment: We need to remember that all communities have elders that we should be tapping into for knowledge.
- Comment: Part of this needs to include guidance for how people can engage with First Nations outside of government.
- Comment: We're talking about trust – somebody doesn't trust the government. Indigenous people haven't been treated well for a long time. The frustration towards trust has been shared by indigenous people for a very long time.

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