

NORTHEAST ROUNDTABLE SESSION 12– MEETING NOTES

Date: January 20th, 2021
Time: 9:00 AM – 4 PM
Location: Virtual Microsoft Teams

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

- [January 20th, 2021 NE Roundtable Agenda](#)
- January 20th, 2021 NE Roundtable Notes
- [Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Presentation](#)
- [Caribou Update Presentation](#)
- [Spruce Beetle Presentation](#)
- [Spruce Beetle and Forest Health in the Peace](#)
- [Land and Resource Management Plan Update Presentation](#)
- [Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment Update Presentation](#)

Welcome, Agenda, Minutes

- Jason Lawson as facilitator welcomed, territorial acknowledgement, and MS Teams info
- No comments on previous meeting notes
 - Request to add:
 - Prescribed burns
 - New government reorganization

1. Northeast Roundtable Participant Introductions

1. Shayla Blue (FLNRORD)
2. Tyler Annand (FLNRORD)
3. Renee Simard (MIRR)
4. Susan Campbell (MIRR)
5. Tara Forest (MIRR)
6. Dale Morgan (MIRR)
7. Shane Ford (FLNRORD)
8. Bryan Mitchell (FLNRORD)
9. Joelle Scheck (FLNRORD)
10. Katie Connah (FLNRORD)
11. Darin Hancock (FLNRORD)
12. Michael Huck (FLNRORD)
13. Ian Curtis (FLNRORD)

14. Jeanne Robert (FLNRORD)
15. Nadia Skokun (FLNRORD)
16. Darcy Peel (Director of Strategic Initiatives, FLNRORD)
17. Chris Pasztor (EMLI)
18. Allen Courtoreille
19. Darryl Kroeker (Fort St. John Trappers Association – dkroeker@pris.ca)
20. Andy Ackerman (NE Stakeholders - ackerman@telus.net)
21. Brad Sperling
22. Derry Sorgen (LP)
23. Helen Gilbert (School District #60)
24. Kathleen Connolly (kathleen@dawsoncreekchamber.ca)
25. Gerry Paille (BC Wildlife Federation – gpaille@me.com)
26. Jim Webb (WMFN)
27. Tyla Pennell (District of Taylor – tpennell@districtoftaylor.com)
28. Kyle Bigras (Volunteer rep for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers)
29. Andrew Tyrell (Canfor Planner FSJ)
30. Wayne Sawchuk (MK Board)
31. Ray Ensz (BC Trappers Assoc, Region 7)
32. Jim Little (NE Stakeholders)
33. Karen Goodings
34. Clinton Gould (Louisiana Pacific)
35. Nicholas Macsemniuk (Summit Lake Community Association)
36. Rob Fraser (Mayor of District of Taylor)
37. Tim Burkhart (Yellowstone to Yukon)
38. Justin Keutzer (High Prairie Outfitters - tracksbc2018@outlook.com)
39. Jennifer Blaney (Ovintiv)
40. Kara Green (HRFN)
41. David McWalter (Summit Lake Community Association)
42. David Smith (Charlie Lake Concerned Citizens)
43. Lori Ackerman (Mayor of Fort St. John)
44. Ryan McKay (SFN)
45. Carmela Anderson (Canfor)
46. Naomi Owens-Beek (SFN)
47. Carol Newsom (CEO of District of Chetwynd)
48. Don Rosen (Canfor Chetwynd)
49. Cheryl Montgomery (FSJ Chamber of Commerce)
50. Dan Rose (PRRD)
51. David McWalter (Summit Lake Community Association)
52. Lynda Neufeld
53. Clarence Apsassin (BRFN Elder)
54. Jocelyn Paul (BC Hydro)
55. Ross Bannerman
56. Laureen Whyte

57. Renee Ardill (North Peace Cattlemen's Association)
58. Tanya Goertzen
59. Stephanie Kllam (MK Board)
60. Wagner Ksenhuk (Aeolis Wind Power Corp)
61. Ron Long
62. Bev Vandersteen
63. Krista Phillips (CAPP)

2. MIRR Treaty Land Entitlement Update

- Tara Forest provided an update on TLE negotiations. [Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Presentation](#) uploaded to [NE Roundtable website](#).
- Comment: A Blueberry member made several points. BRFN member is planning to send a letter to minister to request that the Province consult with the Blueberry River First Nations community regarding the proposed TLE settlement land selections. Chief and Council have not shared information recently about TLE negotiations and proposed settlement with the band members. The Blueberry member indicated that some Blueberry members feel like BRFN's selections do not reflect the voting members and community members' needs and desires and would not be supportive of agreement ratification at this time because the Chief and Council are divided. The Blueberry member asked that the Province come to the community to provide information and talk with the community about TLE.
 - Provincial response: Dale Morgan will reach out to BRFN and member offline.
- Question: Will stage 6 transfers that involve two FNs in a joint settlement claim have to be signed off together?
 - Provincial response: The Settlement Agreement needs to be ratified by both communities, while each community has a Lands Agreement outlining that community's land selection.
 - Example: Blueberry and Doig River First Nations would both ratify the Settlement Agreements; Blueberry would ratify the Blueberry Lands Agreement and Doig would ratify the Doig Lands Agreement. All three TLE Agreements must be ratified in order to finally settle TLE for both communities.
- Comment: The Blueberry member suggested that the Blueberry clearing of trails at Pink Mountain trails were done independently, and did not represent the Blueberry River First Nation's community interests
- Question: Can draft agreements exclude controversial land selections?
 - Answer: Considering removing parcels from TLE settlement requires agreement through negotiations or a decision by the Province not to approve a parcel for transfer. At this stage of the negotiations, an agreement to remove an entire parcel would be extremely difficult.
- Question: Can parcels not be reserved or protected for general use:

- **Provincial Response:** Parcels that transfer for TLE will be transferred to the First Nations. If a decision is made not to transfer a land parcel, then that parcel would remain as Crown land. No decision has been made on parcels at this stage.
- Comment: A West Moberly First Nations representative commented that negotiations with First Nations involve conversation that are integral to the identity and culture of First Nations. 1 ha in one area does not equal 1 ha of land in another. These conversations are not record for the public or stakeholder engagement and are distinctively different than constitutionally protected rights and interest.
- **Action:** Dale Morgan to reach out to BRFN regarding community concerns for TLE selections.
- **Action:** Interested parties can send an e-mail to the MIRR negotiators (MIRR.Northeast@gov.bc.ca) to have further discussion regarding TLE selections.
- The website can be found here: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/land-transfers-in-northeast-british-columbia>
- **Action:** The Province to schedule TLE specific meeting to discuss TLE concerns and comments.

3. Caribou Recovery Update

- Joelle Scheck and Darcy Peel provided an update on Caribou Recovery. [Caribou Update Presentation](#) uploaded to [NE Roundtable website](#).
- Comment: Socioeconomic study is an old/outdated study and is not reflective of today's economy. Maybe it is time to start over and do it right down to the grassroots community.
 - Answer: Noted, will bring that back and will have some discussions
- Question: Besides South Peace, have any other herd plans actually started public consultation?
 - Answer: The election did not allow for public consultation. The Province is in the later stages for developing herd plans for 2022, and all places where caribou are being recovered. The Province is in conversation with the board and has been given direction from senior level government in how to proceed.
- Question: How to engage with trappers, how to help with predation? Trappers haven't been contacted for support. Some on the call would rather trappers, guide outfitters trap and deal with wolves now rather than wait for another year dealing with court challenges to aerial methods/predation.
 - Answer: Really difficult to use a ground program to help with predation. Helicopters and aerial methods are the most effective.
- If the court challenge does not change, will it impact the Maternal pens later in the spring?
 - At a broad interpretation, it might impact the maternal pen operation. The Province is hopeful that it won't impact much, but the worst-case scenario has an impact. Conversations needs to be had with SDMs, and the province is having conversations with the Attorney General office.
- Comment (Jim Webb, WMFN): For the Central mountain group, the predator control program is the action that has allowed the government to state that the caribou populations were stable. If this stops, then all probability for each area begin to lose more caribou than is replaced by natural

breeding – which goes against the objective of the caribou partnership agreement. One year of bad predation, a caribou herd can be wiped out completely).

- Comment: Wolves don't stop breeding because of indecision. Is David Mueter reflecting on WMFN and SFNs concerns? Until the court says to stop, we need to keep doing what we're doing.
- Question: What on the ground restoration is happening?
 - Answer: West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations (via the Nikanese Wah Tzee Stewardship Society) are leading restoration activities in the Klinse-Za, area and FLNRORD is leading efforts in the Quintette. Fort Nelson First Nations has been reclaiming seismic lines to restore habitat in the area. The Province is focused on linear features, mounding, tree felling, any method to block a line to disrupt movement of wolves. Seismic line or linear feature, ecologic restoration – largely related to planting seedlings to bring area close to pre-disturbance state.
- Comment: Klinse-Za area, combination of forest roads and trails proposed for restoration, generally you have to start at a level where closure of those roads can restrict traffic to the high alpine, as those roads get regrown, the end growth of real timber and barriers will restrict both motorized recreation access and predator access into those areas.
- Question: It was mentioned in the provincial call that no decisions would be made without the province doing a socio-economic impact report for each element. Has that been done with the winterized motor vehicle plan?
 - In order to move for a decision, the province plans to have a socio-economic report, however, the Province does not have the information to know what the socio-economic impacts would be yet.
- Question: How will trappers be impacted?
 - Answers: Registered licenced trappers are exempt from closures under the Motor Vehicle Prohibition Regulation (closures would only apply to recreational winter motorized vehicles).
- Comment (Jim Webb, WMFN): Under Treaty 8 have the right to use crown lands in accordance with their traditional seasonal rounds – and the right to do this through modern means (incidental rights: snowmobiles, atvs, etc).
- Question: Will there be reporting with how the money is being spent?
 - Answer: Yes, the financial reports will be shared publicly. The Province will consider holding a separate meeting with interesting parties to talk more in depth about this.
- Comment: Have you talked to Fort Nelson/Northern Rockies groups?
 - Answer: The Province will engage with those groups.
- Is the Local snowmobile club included on the steering committee? Is snowmobile management part of the scope of the work?
 - No, they are not, and snowmobile use is not considered a major impact on caribou populations.

Spruce Bark Beetle

- Jeanne Robert provided a [Spruce Beetle Presentation](#) and Anne Marie Fonda presented on [Spruce Beetle and Forest Health in the Peace](#) both are uploaded to [NE Roundtable website](#).
- There were no questions or comments for this presentation

4. Fort St John Land and Resource Management Plan Update Presentation

- Ian Curtis and Shayla Blue provided an update on the LRMP Update. [Land and Resource Management Plan Update Engagement Schedule Presentation](#) uploaded to [NE Roundtable website](#).
- Question: June 2021 is when LRMP is hoping to get all of their information? There's a bunch of information out there regarding historical context, public stakeholders, and users of the land base. Is the June 2021 goal ambitious?
 - Answer: That's the goal, there's a lot of information but the goal is to at least have a catalogue of the information at hand.
- Question: Have the base maps been adjusted to reflect the areas left after TLE selections?
 - Answer: The Province should be considering this.
- Question: Is there going to be a target for protected areas for this new LRMP?
 - Answer: Exploring options for new protected areas is within the scope of the update. The Terms of Reference provides greater clarity on areas of interest for new protections.
- Comment: The TLE and Site C Agreements is not the total land that will be affected by the protection of Treaty Rights. Each of the First Nations are identifying lands where their values are integral, and lands that can better support cultural significance, food sovereignty, and treaty right practices.
 - Reply: This is one of the reasons that the LRMP is being updated, to accommodate these initiatives and interests.
- Question: Is there a chance to sit down and talk as a group regarding interests on the land-base? There is some concern with having discussions within silos. Open houses do not accomplish the same thing as a roundtable discussion. Open houses are a scattered approach.
 - Answer: There are some engagement initiatives like open houses and future roundtables and virtual meetings to be held to ensure interests are fully understood and considered. The Province will explore the opportunity of targeted discussions.
- Question: How will consensus be achieved, and how the final decision will be made
 - Answer: This is part of the discussion right now and is not yet confirmed. There is no appetite to run a planning process that divides communities or contributes to instability in the region. The Province's goal is to make it as transparent as possible and in line with UNDRIP.
- Question: Can protected areas be a topic for a dedicated virtual meeting?

- Answer: When it is time to discuss protected areas, targeted meetings are possible.

5. Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment Update

- Chris Pasztor provided an update on RSEA. [Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment Update Presentation](#) uploaded to [NE Roundtable website](#).
- Comment: Treaty 8, there are 5 fundamental obligations that the crown must support First Nations. These commitments are to manage lands that supports and facilitates a way of life or livelihood that is grounded in hunting, fishing, and trapping. The heatmaps are information from a First Nation regarding their important areas to support their nutritional, social, and cultural needs grounded in their way of life. At the same time supporting to forestry and oil and gas industry.
- Comment: Indicators from data management to Water are bio-physical. The last two are socio-cultural in nature. Valued in way of life, livelihood and integral to First Nation communities.
- Question: Are climate change projections part of the Province's modelling inputs.
 - Answers: Climate change is not a part of the Province's modelling inputs.
 - Further Reply (Ryan McKay, SFN): the RSEA discussions are being incorporated into discussions and the table is aware of it's importance.
- Question: There is interest in seeing how the Province will pull all of this information together. There is not as much stakeholder engagement in comparison to the LRMP.
 - Answer: There was a plan in 2015 to do broader engagement, and the LRMP is a mechanism to engage a broader audience. Some of the information would be funnelled into the LRMP process. To date the process is highly technical, but they are exploring how to broaden the audience to gain input.

6. Other Business/Suggested Topics

- Future meetings dates: **March 10, May 5, June 23**
- New Agenda topics:
 - Potential: Reorganization of ministry (FLNRORD), the Province will keep this on the radar and provide updates as they arise
 - Prescribed Burns: some of the polygons are not favourable with members involved with Caribou recovery
- **Action: Jason Lawson to follow up with Aviva to discuss future burn plan discussion**

7. Next Meeting

- Next meetings: **March 10, 2021**