

### **\*Disclaimer**

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Requested changes documented in these notes do not mean that the Board will make these changes. Some requests are beyond the Board's mandate or jurisdiction to address. The Board must consider all comments and requests and balance the interests of multiple parties. The Board will revise the Plan as it deems appropriate to achieve the right balance.

# **Norman Wells Draft 2 Follow-up Community Consultation Summary Notes of Discussion**

**November 4, 2009, 1:00-5:00 pm**

**Claimant Corporation**

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## **Participants:**

Rodger Odgaard, President, Norman Wells Claimant Corporation  
Laurel MacDonald, NWRRRC

### **SLUPB**

Judith Wright-Bird, Board Chair  
Heidi Wiebe, Lead on Plan  
Ida Mak, Communications Coordinator/Planner

Meeting start time: 1:53 am

Rodger: Willow Lake is a Conservation Zone but Explor (MGM) is carrying out seismic activity. Greywolf and Unicall were also exploring on 3-Day Lake. These areas are Conservation Zones and should not have activity in them.

Judith: Before Explor was allowed to do seismic they would have had to meet with the community. If Explor is active it means that the community allowed them in. We need communities to be consistent with the direction they give the Board. Communities tell us one thing, for example, they will designate an area as a Conservation Zones but then they will allow development.

Until the Plan is implemented, it is the responsibility of communities to make the proper decisions regarding whether or not they want to allow development. All current activities will be grandfathered in the Plan and the Board has no control over that.

Heidi: This has happened before. The Plan identifies an area as a Conservation Zone because a community gives us that direction but then when we talk to companies they will tell us that they have come to an agreement with the community and that the area is open to development. The companies will then tell us to consult with communities again because they have been allowed to develop in the area. But then when we go back to communities, they will continue to tell us that they want an area as a Conservation Zone. We need a consistent message from communities to Plan appropriately for the region.

Judith: O'Grady Lake came up in Tulita when Rick and Rocky enquired about it. They were wondering why the two lakes were excluded from Nááts'ihch'oh.

Heidi: They are included in Shúhtagot'ine Néné. We don't know why or how the boundaries were set the way they are. Boundaries are determined by Parks Canada and Tulita and then given to us.

Rodger: We should have a CZ around Caribou Pass on the Canol Trail. It should have National Park Status because the world's oldest spongiform fossils were found there.

Judith: Drum Lake was not frozen during the last ice age. Caribou Pass is not far from there so it might be the same area.

Rodger: In the headwaters of the Mountain River, close to where the 3 tongues separate, there is a glacial refugia with a petrified coral reef. It is near the ice packs. INAC and GNWT Mines and Minerals Department would have the info you're looking for. This area should be a CZ.

Rodger: Mentioned that there were 3 metals found in the water in Norman Wells that were never there. There are 2 old landfills and contaminated land from past oil development. The old dump sites are above the water source.

We're not sure if the contaminants are coming from the Athabasca or from our dumps.

Heidi: There must be someone monitoring the water quality.

Rodger: Tom Bradenbury is the water monitoring guy. He drinks the water and tells us that it's safe but the contaminants were never there. I wouldn't want kids to drink it.

Laurel: We've been told not to drink water from the river because it might have toxins from the Athabasca - Fort McMurray or from the old landfills.

Heidi: Asked about the CZ that FGH asked for around Lac a Jacques, Sam McCrae, Turton Lakes.

Rodger: Sam McCrae, Turton, and Lac a Jacques all have high mercury levels in the water. There were families that tried to live up there but their hair started falling out. If Fort Good Hope wants the area as CZ then we have no problem with that. There must be a mountain divide because the water flows north in Lac a Jacques but the waters in Lennie and Kelly Lakes are very clean and flow south.

Heidi asked about the area that had been left out of the Mountain River zone.

Judith: The portion of Mountain River zone left out of Shúhtagot'ine Néné should be SM.

Heidi asked about the boundary line between the Special Management and General Use Zones in the valley between the Mackenzie Mountains and the River. The delineation needs to be substantiated.

Judith: When I look at Bear Rock and Steward and Tate Lakes, it looks like the line was pushed back to incorporate the Sahtu Lands.

Rodger: It looks like the line follows the foothills. All along the front range of the mountains there are sheep. It is one of the areas with many sheep so make sure you're following it for the boundary.

Laurel: The watershed is also hugely important.

Heidi: We will have to look at a combination of water and wildlife values to determine where to set that zone but I want to make sure that you are aware that they may change once we go back and re-evaluate them. You may not see the changes until the next time we visit with Draft 3.

Rodger asked about timelines for completion. Heidi explained.

Rodger asked where there were areas currently zoned as CZ but that have Significant Discover Licences or mineral leases (in essence areas currently identified for conservation but that will have grandfathered activities in them). Rodger expressed that Tulita had tried to open Red Dog for development.

Rodger showed private access roads where he believed more permanent roads would eventually be established:

- 1) Apache and Paramount: road from Colville to Tunago
- 2) Road from Deline up to Hare Indian near Keith arm of GBL

3) MGM: from Oscar Pass to Turton Lake (on the army road) and then past Doctor lake (to the W of it)

Rodger: These private access roads will all eventually tie up together. We should identify these areas as the infrastructure paths because they are making them better and bigger every year. That way more land will not be disturbed for transportation and infrastructure development.

Rodger expressed that Tulita had tried to open Red Dog for development.

Red Dog Mountain – Ethel Blondin has a story about why this area is sacred.

Heidi tried to go through the terms

### Water

There is an NWT Water Strategy working group. The Sahtu apparently does not have representation on it. The Sahtu should look at becoming involved in this.

### Monitoring

Judith: Aurora College ECE will be holding courses in the different communities to be monitors. If monitors know their role they will be able to better do their jobs.

Rodger: Industry does not like guys who report problems. They will find a way to fire you if you report issues. They like monitors that don't report and that keep quiet.

Laurel: We need people who care to monitor and then we need to give them more power. They should be able to shut a job down if there is an issue but it's up to INAC. The monitors have no power.

Judith: Monitors need to properly document these issues and problems and bring the problems to the RRCs.

Heidi: The only people who have the authority to shut down a project are the INAC inspectors.

### Abandonment and Reclamation

Judith: A Phase II Geotechnical report should be required at the end of a reclamation project to determine whether or not the site is clean. It should be carried out by a third party. There should be an independent assessment and final report.

Laurel: Assessments should be done by a third party and not by their own monitors or people.

Meeting adjourned: 5:05pm