



# Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

Box 235, Fort Good Hope, NT, X0E 0H0

Phone: (867) 598-2055 Fax: (867) 598-2545

Email: [slupb@netkaster.ca](mailto:slupb@netkaster.ca) Website: [www.sahtulanduseplan.org](http://www.sahtulanduseplan.org)

## \*Disclaimer

These summary notes were recorded by SLUP staff. They are subject to errors of interpretation or omission. This document presents a summary of key discussion points. It is not intended to serve as transcripts of the meetings.

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.

## Colville Lake Post-Hearing Follow-up

---

**Date: June 16, 2011, 4 – 8 pm**

**Where: Community Hall**

### **Participants:**

Heidi Wiebe, SLUPB

Edna Tobac, SLUPB

Joseph Kochon

Hyacinthe Kochon

Marie Kochon

Sarah Kochon

John Blancho

J.B. Gully

Chief Richard Kochon

Alphonsine McNeely (Translator)

## Notes

1. **Opening Prayer:** 4:30 pm by Marie Kochon
2. **Opening Remarks:** Heidi explained the purpose of the meeting as per the agenda and handouts.
3. **Review of Agenda:** No changes
4. **Hearing Follow-up Discussions**
  - a. **CR 20 – Water Withdrawal from Lac Belot:**

Heidi went over the SLUPB handout on water withdrawal. The question that needs to be answered is whether the community wants to continue to prohibit water withdrawal from Lac Belot through the Plan. The options are: 1) to maintain a strict withdrawal as currently exists, 2) add flexibility to allow it under some conditions, or 3) remove the restriction. The SWLB and DFO have requested that the Board allow water withdrawals. The Board will make its decision once it has a clear understanding of what the community wants.



JB Gully: Industry took a lot of water already; thousands of gallons from our lake. The water goes into Rabbit Skin. We fly over Belot Lake and we know how large it is. It has the best fish. About this time they go to the deep water. We know our land. If they continue to take water from the land it might not be that healthy anymore, so we don't want any kind of disturbance. If they want to come on our land, they have to consult with the community first and we will let them know if they can take water.

Hyacinthe Kochon: We live on the land and need the water. Industry works on the land and they disturb our livelihood and the water. They need to know that if they work on the land, we can tell them if a lake is useless to us; Belot is really important to us. A long time ago they didn't used to tell us anything, but now they really consult with us. The federal government is stating that the Crown land belongs to them but they are wrong. The land belongs to us. A long time ago, our ancestors accepted 5 dollars for our land and it seems that the federal government is in control of our land and waters. So maybe in the future they might bother us more but right now we want to keep our waters fresh and healthy. We are not going to live forever. We want to keep the fish and waters healthy. The government is playing games with us but we are not white people, we are people of the land, aboriginal people. The white people have their own modern living. We have our aboriginal lifestyle. It is important they know that.

John Blancho: I noticed a big difference in the water already. The water is really dropping since the activity started. The water comes back but it doesn't; it stays the same and goes down. Belot Lake is fed by a lot of streams and it goes to rabbit skin and goes to the Mackenzie. Our ancestors really lived off the land. They were saying at that time that if anything bothers the land, it would never be the same. A long time ago there used to be a lot of water. Tunago lake is going down and it is shallow and islands are starting to show on these lakes. We live off the land. When I was a child we used to travel on the land. We used to land on the lake. Now it is dry ground, that lake is not there anymore. The animals are the same too. Wildlife depends on water a lot, so that is why I am concerned about the water.

Marie Kochon: This is our land. We never lived off the store. We live on caribou meat. Even the caribou are changing their route. Our elders are disappearing. As elders we are really talking for our future generations. We want a healthy lifestyle for our future generation; that is why we are talking out. You know that a long time ago people used to tan moose hide and caribou hide. They made many things out of that - sinew, twine, and clothing. It is not like that anymore. It is disappearing. As elders we are worried about that. A long time ago we traveled on the land with dogs and we struggled. No government helped us and we were happy. When the men were gone we visited nets, we did what we did to feed the kids. No government helped us.

Joseph: Asked Heidi to explain what the land use plan is about to the elders.

Heidi explained how the SLUPB was set up, what the LUP is about, and the way the LUP is going to be approved.

Chief Richard Kochon: We know where the lakes are to be protected. Now the industries come in. The first time I did not agree with what they are doing. We have to solve that problem. When industry comes in and they set up rigs to produce oil, what will happen if a forest fire starts? What if they found oil and gas?? Norman wells have their pipeline going down south and they send it back to us to buy it. Now if they find something on our land we need to profit off it. If they listen to us and help us understand we will appreciate it. They make laws for us and the prices go up and industry profits and we pay for everything. If they manufacture things from here, the beneficiaries will profit from it. It seems like they are always profiting from us and we are struggling with prices. If they find minerals, they bring it south and we never see it. If they find things like that they need a place to manufacture it and they seem to always do things behind our backs. The resources they find seem to go south. In the future we need the beneficiaries to



---

profit from the resources off our land. We are not here for nothing. We are the keepers of the land, the wildlife, we envision them, we talk and we see them in our dreams and we are gifted with that. Industry needs to listen to the beneficiaries and landowners and everything will benefit. In the past the landowners suffered and I do not want to see that again. In the past they tried to assimilate us. It is not right if people come here and tell us what to do. Fort Good Hope does not tell us what to do, we do not tell others what to do, and it is better if we work together. You need to listen to the aboriginal people and the elders and everything will work out.

Joseph: Spoke to the elders. When we went to Norman wells for the meeting, they talked about the LUP. This is the last consultation with the people. We were talking with industry. In Fort Good Hope they were talking about the Group Trapping Area (GTA) and the Ramparts and they want that in the LUP. They want government to agree with that. Heidi and them are there to work with us and document things for the people. The main people are the federal Government and they have different departments, INAC, DFO, etc. If the community doesn't want people to take water out of Belot Lake, they are the ones that will say which lake they will take it from or if they need it. We use the water for the winter road and it is required but if you people don't want to take water from Belot Lake then there wouldn't be too much funding for the winter road. But now Belot Lake is going down and now there are islands popping up because the water level is dropping and it is drying up. Do you want them to continue or open the doors or close it? Right now if you want to shut the activity or take no water from Belot Lake and you want them to document it, then that is the way it is going to be.

JB Gully: We don't want to close the doors to them on their activities but the wildlife and the birds need water too - that is their livelihood. There is a lot to talk about the GTA and now they have the winter road. At that time they did not want that winter road but it was required. Now there are problems from whatever they are doing on the land. We are talking about our elders from a long time ago. It is okay if they take a document and read it and see what people want from Colville Lake. All industry wants is money. Me, I have children and grandchildren. We want healthy lifestyles, we just don't want the land abused and destroyed. We don't want people reading documents and reading that Colville Lake wants this. With the oil and gas spill there is impacts on birds. We think about that, we bury our people in the ground.

Richard: It would be a good idea if they take water from lakes with no fish. If they need water for the winter road do they take a lot of water?

Joseph: No they do not take a lot of water for the road but when industry comes in they take water from the lake. If you don't water taken from the lake it is going to be documented. Island lake, Belot Lake, and Tunago Lake all have fish in them, but there are lakes that have no fish in them.

Sarah and Joseph: In the past not too long ago they were working around the different lakes out this way. Belot Lake is getting shallow. Belot has been going like that for a long time. It is coming from different streams, there is a lot going in there. Sarah asked what they are going to do if they need water. If you tell them they could use water it is going to get shallower. Discussion between Sarah and Joseph. Sarah said that there is a lot of water around and lakes that they can use.

Joseph: Belot Lake has good healthy fish. The government wants to know if they could withdraw water from there but if you say you don't want them to that is the way it is going to be.

John Blancho: I think we should all say we don't want them to take water from Belot Lake. Belot Lake is what we are concerned about.



Sarah: We are not the boss, God is the boss. We have to work together and share. We love this land; we love to live on the land. God is the boss and he planned things for us. The GNWT has their own way of thinking.

Joseph: I am telling them to make a final decision instead of talking loosely about it.

Heidi and Joseph discussed the option of having industry and government talk to the community before they are allowed to take water. Richard said that if you want it for personal use (drinking water) you can but industry and government are different.

Joseph: We are talking about only Belot Lake. If they want to use water from Belot Lake they can come to us and ask us, and in the mean time we can shut it down.

Joseph asked Heidi what the community's options are if they don't like the Board's decision on this matter. Heidi said that the next draft will be the one submitted for approval so the community would have to work with SSI to ensure it reflects their interests prior to SSI approving it. Heidi said that the Board gives a lot of weight to community input.

Sarah: We had a meeting a long time ago and this was discussed and agreed on.

JB Gully: We don't want them to use that water. They should leave Belot Lake locked.

Heidi: It sounds like the final decision is that you don't want any water withdrawal for industrial purposes; we will take that back to the board. It can continue to be used for personal drinking water.

**b. Origin of Zoning Types:**

At the Hearing Joseph asked if the SLUPB developed the system of zoning or if it came from somewhere else. Heidi replied that the zone types that the Sahtu uses is consistent with the zoning system used in both the Gwich'in and Dehcho regions.

**c. Inclusion of Group Trapping Area in the Plan:**

Heidi explained the results of discussions in Fort Good Hope on the Group Trapping Area (GTA) – the SLUPB will incorporate it into S. 1.9.2 of the Plan, CR 7 and CR 2 (context section).

Joseph asked if we had any legal documents on the GTA. Heidi said that the SLUPB has a legal opinion from John Donihee, which talks about its legal status as a trapping area in relation to the rights given to all beneficiaries under the SLCA. Joseph asked if there are any original legal documents on its establishment. Edna said that she would try and dig up the original documents on the GTA from the FGH band office.

**d. Directional Drilling:**

Heidi provided copies of handouts on directional drilling to meeting participants for their information. They were handed to the Board at the Hearing and communities requested the Board provide additional information to them on directional drilling. Heidi asked if there were any Conservation Zones where the community wanted to consider opening the subsurface to directional drilling. Joseph asked to what depth the Plan protected land. Regulations allow for partitioning of rights at different depths. Heidi responded that the Plan currently protects both the surface and the subsurface and removes all subsurface rights from disposition in Conservation Zones.

**5. Zoning Check and Update:**

Heidi updated participants on Fort Good Hope's decisions on the zoning of Ramparts area. She then explained that we are doing final cleanup on all zone boundaries using more detailed water data. Two zones (Ts'oga Tue and Dene Di Gone) in the Colville Lake area need further



---

community input to identify the most appropriate boundary. Heidi identified the zones on detailed maps and asked the Elders to identify where the final boundaries should be. For Ts'oga Tue Joseph said that it is the creek that is of interest to them. It is called "Bele nera dele"- "Where the wolf crosses". Joseph requested more detailed maps on which to properly delineate the boundaries for the two zones. Heidi committed to sending the maps up as soon as possible so that they could identify the boundaries and send them back to the SLUPB office.

Richard: There are a lot of places that are really sacred and people are buried there. It is better if companies go to the nearest community. That is the proper way to deal with us. Every town has mayors, chiefs. They have to work fair with us. Don't go around us or over us. If we don't say anything they take all the money from us. We are struggling and begging for money. They have gas here and they have to go through Colville Lake and FGH first. In the past they didn't even let us know. There are all kinds of cut lines and that around here. If we don't take care of it, they are going to take everything and wreck the land. It is good thing that we are here. I don't know who marked this lake on the map. There is a creek going there.

Joseph and Richard had a discussion about how the zoning came to be put on the map.

Richard: There are lots graveyards on the land and we want them protected; some time we will work on it.

Heidi: We have different conditions for land use that deal specifically with protecting burial sites. It is up for discussion but currently requires development to be 500 m from burial sites.

Discussed Dene Di Gone - Joseph asked who drew the line. Heidi said that the community identified it during the meeting in January 2009. Joseph said it would be better if the community could get a bigger map so the elders can see it better. Heidi agreed to send a better map for them to identify the area. Joseph said that he would get back to us on it.

## **6. Next Steps for the Sahtu Land Use Plan:**

Heidi explained the next steps on the plan and talked about the fall technical meetings. The Board hopes to complete the Plan by the end of March.

JB Gully: Asked the Board to look for the documents on GTA. He would be really happy if it can be found.

Meeting ended at 7:04 pm with a prayer.

Door prize winners were Hyacinthe and Wilbert Kochon.