

***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.

Colville Lake Draft 3 Community Consultation Summary Notes

Thursday, August 19, 2010, 1 pm – 9 pm

Board Room

Participants:

Heidi Wiebe, SLUPB

Ida Mak, SLUPB

Lucy Jackson, Translator

Joan Gordey, SLWB, Regulatory Director

Trevor Sinclair, DFO, Community Liaison Officer

Marie Kochon, Elder

Hyacinth Kochon, Elder

Johnny Blancho, Elder

Madeleine Blancho, Elder

Alexis Blancho, Elder

JB Gully, Elder, Band Councillor, RRC

Sarah Kochon, Elder

Alvin Orlias, Land Corporation

Joseph Kochon, Band Manager, President of Land Corporation

Start time: 1:30 pm

Joseph Kochon, Band Manager and President of Land Corporation - Opening Remarks: Thanked the Board for giving the community the opportunity to meet and discuss Draft 3. He appreciates the open

communication and feels that it is important to have community input into the Plan. On Working Draft 2 the community felt coerced into identifying a large area for conservation. They have since reversed that decision because they feel they have the power to provide the protection that is needed for their area.

Colville Lake is interested to hear about Draft 3 and will make sure in their review that they agree with the Plan. It will be important to speak about Lac Belot because of the recommendation to not withdraw water from it. They take their water from Lac Belot to build the winter road so this could be a problem. That recommendation must come from the community as a whole and not just from one person.

They do not want the SLUP to prevent future development in the area. They do not want the Plan to infringe on any of their treaty rights.

Heidi: Communicated the Board's regret for not being able to send a representative. We will not run through the whole plan but will highlight some of the main issues that have been brought up in the past. We will demonstrate how we have responded to your concerns. We also have DFO here today to talk about Lac Belot. Would any elders like to make an opening statement?

JB: We will question but after we hear your report.

Alexis: When they talk about taking water out of Lac Belot, it depends on how much and how long they will take water out because over the long run it is not good.

Joseph: Perhaps we can question them after the presentation. Perhaps now you can bring up issues that you are concerned about.

Hyacinth: When we signed the treaty we were offered money but it wasn't what we wanted. We lived on the land and it gave us everything we needed. I don't understand how today the government can come and say that this is their land even though they don't know the land and they don't live on the land. The government talks like they own the land. We live off the land and it feeds us. It is still our land.

[Joseph asked if he could explain what the SLUPB is and what we are doing here so that there is no confusion about what we do since the elders seemed to think that Heidi and Ida were bureaucrats. Joseph went through the SLUPB board members and explained the basics of land use planning.]

Break: 2:00pm

Back from break: 2:10pm

[Heidi explained zoning and the zones.]

Sarah: Is the government or the land owner going to be responsible for lands? It sounds like all the land is zoned already. What about self-government? How can the land be zoned before we do self-government? Will we have the right to use the land as we wish if all the land is already zoned?

Heidi: You're asking how zoning changes who owns the land. It does not. [Heidi talked about the Sahtu Lands map.] There are some lands where you own the surface and other places where you own the

subsurface. The government owns the rest of the land. The land use plan asks everyone to work together to decide how we will manage the land. It does not change who owns the land.

Joseph: [Provided some clarification on Sarah's question.] Sarah was asking what would happen to the PAS areas once they are established. If there is a fire, who would be responsible for the land and what would happen to participant rights?

Heidi: Explained that in PAS locations the land is managed by the government department that is protecting the area. Traditional harvesting rights continue to be allowed in these areas but what is allowed in each area depends on which organization accepts responsibility for the PAS area.

Sarah: Who has decision making power in the PAS sites?

Heidi: PAS sites are managed by the government. In conservation zones government has to follow the Plan. They are a little different.

Joseph: One of the questions we had was whether or not our access roads would have to be changed once the Plan is approved. We need to have access in and out such as the winter road. I'm glad that this is clearer for us and that the Plan allows access across conservation zones.

We have traditionally protected our land. If we look at the zoning map, it looks like Colville Lake is the only area that is not protected. We do not want a Board to manage our land. We want to manage it ourselves. We've kept our lands open because we know that we can protect it ourselves.

It is also an issue of sharing what we know with the world. We don't want to identify the important wildlife habitat in the area. This exposes our resources to the world. We have very good resources right now in terms of wildlife like caribou, fish, moose and we rely on them. We don't want wealthy people coming in to trophy hunt or fish.

[Heidi explained zoning changes in the area: some of the zone boundaries were re-delineated based on GIS info; the Loon Lake to Fort Anderson Trail Special Management Zone was re-introduced; there are new Conservation Zones around the lakes along the Loon Lake to Fort Anderson Trail; and the large creeks and rivers were requested as new Special Management Zones by Fort Good Hope. None of the lakes in your area have changed since the last draft.]

Heidi: Are you happy with the map or do we need to make changes before we submit it for approval?

JB: In 1951-52, the leaders of FGH and Colville Lake met and outlined a trapping area. Now we don't hear anything about it and we're looking at these little zones in the Plan. As a result of too many non-aboriginal people trapping on our lands, the trapping area was delineated by our harvesters. Many people and elders got together to identify the areas where we trap. That area needs to be recognized.

Heidi: Thanked JB and explained that the group trapping area is included in the plan but is not used as a zone. It is recognized in the Plan and is mentioned in the importance of wildlife sections.

Joseph: It is important to mention where you got your information from. I am hearing comments from the elders. They're asking when you were here on the land, walking it.

Marie: I have heard a lot about oil and gas. We live off the land and I don't know what is new about this plan. It seems to encourage development like all the other presentations.

Heidi: The Plan does not say that there will be development for sure but if development will happen they will have to follow certain rules.

Marie: The benefits will not come to us but will go to companies. Our leaders in the past gave us strong direction. We are here to make sure that our children's lives will continue to be good.

[Heidi went on to the planning themes.]

Lac Belot

Joseph: The reason I asked whether this term came from an individual or the community is because the community builds the winter road every year. If we can't get water from Lac Belot we will need to go farther to get water. The community needs to think about this.

Heidi: Is this no longer a community concern?

Joan: If you were to continue to use the water for your winter road, would you also want industrial withdrawal from Lac Belot? MGM just won the bid in Colville Lake. Would you be comfortable having them withdraw water from Lac Belot for 1 or 2 wells as well?

Joseph: Can you get us some different scenarios with amounts of water that will be needed so that we can all see a comparison? It will help the elders understand. The winter road does not use up that much water. Industrial development might use significantly larger amounts of water.

Trevor: DFO has 2 big jobs. Our first job is to make sure that we protect fish. The second job is to make sure that communities and Aboriginal communities will continue to have access to that fish. We don't want the water level of lakes to get so low that it kills the fish. Lac Belot is a big lake which is why we choose to withdraw water from it. It is easier to take water from a big lake than a small lake because the water level will drop less. DFO will only let industry use so much water so that the fish are not hurt. We do limit the amount of water that can be taken out of a lake.

Joseph: Please give us a summary in writing so we can better evaluate how we feel about this issue.

Trevor: We have done some small surveys in Lac Belot. We are willing to do some more surveys. If the community is interested then we can do that. I can get our biologists to write up a summary for you.

Joseph: We are interested in your mandate and in figures. Tell us how much water we will need to use for the winter road and how much water will be used for 1 or 2 drilling projects. If you can give it to us in writing that might make things clearer. If the community wants to stop water withdrawal from Lac Belot they need to really understand the issue.

Marie: I did not know that water was being taken out of Lac Belot. That would explain why the shoreline has been getting longer and longer and the lake has been getting lower.

Coffee break: 3:45 pm

Back from break: 4:00 pm

[Heidi continued to go through the planning themes and finished the presentation.]

JB: If the land is destroyed or if there is damage developers will have to be held responsible. We used to see lots of caribou on the eastern side of Great Bear Lake but you don't see them anymore. You can see the destruction. We don't get many more birds coming this way anymore. That is our food. You can see the destruction but we don't see the developers' applications. There has to be back and forth communication between us and developers so we know what is happening on the land.

Joseph: There is a lot of information in your presentation but we know that it is just the tip of the iceberg. We will work on getting our feedback to you once we get the person chosen as our communication liaison. How does the public hearing work?

Heidi gave a brief description of how the public hearing will proceed.

Joseph then told the community that Trevor from DFO would explain some water numbers related to Lac Belot. Trevor and Joan had put together some facts and figures about the amount of water required to set up a 100 person camp, to drill 5 holes and to maintain an access road. Trevor gave a presentation on how much water it would take for a drilling project that used water from Lac Belot.

Alexis: How much will the water level drop if you carried out these projects?

Trevor: The amount of water taken out is so little that it should not drop.

JB: But it will drop because the Underground River drains into the Hare Indian River.

Trevor: There are natural fluctuations. Maybe Joan knows more about this than me.

Johnny: No matter how much water you take out, the lake will be impacted and so will the fish. We live right on the lake and whenever people withdraw water from the lake our house shakes and our cups rattle. The water level used to be much higher. The lands around the lake used to be wetlands but now they are dry and the shoreline has moved out. Withdrawal of water from Lac Belot also affects other lakes. The fish also smell all these foreign fluids.

Trevor: Thank you for sharing that. It's important that we hear these stories from you because you live here. DFO wants to make sure that we take water from the best locations possible. We do not want to negatively affect the fish. We remove water from Lac Belot because it is so big and we think it is a good option but we do not want to negatively affect fish either.

Meeting ended: 5:20pm