



**Michipicoten First Nation 2017-2019 Leadership
Chief and Council Strategic Planning Session #6
Wawa Motor Inn, November 13 & 14, 2018**

Attendance:

Gimma Kwe Patricia Tangie
Councillor William (Bill) Swanson
Councillor Evelyn Stone
Councillor Janet Demary
Councillor Don Humphries
Councillor John Paul Chalykoff
Colin Lachance, MFN Advisor

1.0 Day One Opening Prayer: Councillor Janet Demary

2.0 Chief's Opening Comments

Gimma Kwe Tangie provided an overview of community strategic priorities and the need to continue to invest in the strategic planning agenda. She highlighted that the growing complexity of the strategic planning agenda is a testament of the good work being advanced by Chief and Council.

3.0 Caribou Management Plan

Council was briefed by Gimma Kwe Tangie on the outcome of a caribou management plan meeting that was recently held in Ottawa. Council was asked to consider a number of potential next steps that would lead to the development of a community plan. Consequently, Council agreed to mandate the Interim Band Manager to oversee a desk-top review of Canadian examples of Indigenous approaches to wildlife management in general and caribou management in particular, including the identification of the necessary technical capacity,

leading to the development of an options paper that would investigate ways to advance a caribou management plan without “reinventing the wheel”.

4.0 Provincial Minister’s Meeting

Council agreed to shorten the Governance Strategy Session to two days so that the Chief could meet with the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources on Thursday. A number of community priorities were discussed as potential topics of discussion for the meeting with the Minister. It was suggested that a government-to-government approach be taken given that Michipicoten First Nation has ratified its constitution. A resource revenue sharing arrangement with the Crown was discussed as a priority, given that Michipicoten First Nation participated in the provincial resource revenue sharing pilot project with the Northeast Superior Regional Chiefs Forum but is not a participant in any of the subsequent spin-off arrangements between Ontario and the Wabun Tribal Council or the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council. Fifty thousand dollars in seed money to advance the development of a caribou management plan, and more meaningful First Nation economic benefits from forestry sector opportunities, were also discussed.

5.0 Emergency Preparedness Plan

Council was briefed on the availability of funding to update the Michipicoten First Nation Community Preparedness Plan, with a funding proposal deadline of December 14th, 2018. Council requested that the Interim Band Manager determine the availability of internal capacity to develop a supporting funding proposal and to report her findings at the November 22nd, 2018 regular Chief and Council meeting, along with a suggested alternative course of action in the event that internal capacity is not available.

6.0 Staffing Actions

Chief and Council discussed the need for staffing actions in a number of areas including:

- **Band Manager:** The job poster should be sent out by Monday November 19th with a closing date of January 4th, 2019. It was decided that the poster should leave the salary range open in the event that Council would need to increase it as a means of securing the best candidate. It was also suggested that the poster stipulate that the incumbent possess an undergraduate degree in a relevant field as a prerequisite and preferably a master’s degree. In the meantime, Council agreed to offer the Interim Band Manager the opportunity to work four days a week until such time as the position is filed.
- **Special Projects Officer:** A new job poster should be sent out as soon as possible in support of hiring a Special Projects Officer to oversee the deliverables of all projects being funded by non-core funding, including but not limited to the Comprehensive Community Planning, the Telling the Story and the Professional and Institutional Development funding. It was further agreed that this position would be resourced from

the coordination and administrative dollars attached to the respective funding proposals.

- Corporate Secretary: With the recent resignation of Chief and Council's Executive Assistant, Council concluded that a new job poster would need to be sent out as soon as possible in support of hiring a Corporate Secretary who would report administratively to the Band Manager and politically to Chief and Council in support of direct Chief and Council support. It was recognized that a revised job description would be required in this regard, stressing in part the need for the incumbent to have strong writing skills.

7.0 Land Management

Chief and Council recognized that the Director of Lands and Economic Development is in need of additional capacity. Council directed the Interim Band Manager to mandate the Director of Lands and Economic Development to enter into dialogue with Chris McDonell as soon as possible in support of replicating the agreement between Rainier and other area First Nations, with the final draft agreement being presented to Council for ratification. The Director is to propose to Council ways in which funding secured from this agreement could be used in support of additional community land management capacity.

Council revisited the previous decision to pass a BCR in support of entering into the *First Nation Land Management Act* process, recognizing that entry into the process is accompanied by developmental funding for land code and environmental management system development. Council requested that the Interim Band Manager re-submit the draft FNLMA BCR at the November 22nd regular Chief and Council meeting for ratification.

8.0 Governance

Chief and Council reviewed the work plan that supported the recently secured Professional and Institutional Development funding and requested that the Interim Band Manager present to Chief and Council at its November 22nd meeting a strategy on how best to undertake a cursory review of existing policies and procedures on a priority basis in a way that respects the funding allocation.

9.0 CCP and Telling the Story Kick Off

Chief and Council recognized the need to kick-start the Comprehensive Community Planning and the Telling the Story processes and identified December 18 & 19, 2018 as tentative dates. It was agreed that Michael and Judie Bopp be invited to attend these sessions, with the 18th being set aside for internal Chief and Council discussion, and the 19th for community engagement. It was further decided that the community engagement session coincide with the community Christmas dinner. The benefits of coordinating these sessions with James Morrison's traditional knowledge community engagement sessions was recognized.

The need to provide coordinated transportation for community members located in Chapleau, Dubreuilville and White River was discussed. The need to advertise and to streamline the sessions through video conferencing was also discussed, a point that Councilor Chalykoff agreed to investigate and report on at the November 22nd regular Chief and Council meeting. Chief and Council requested that the Interim Band Manager develop a plan on how best to coordinate these activities, to be presented at the November 22nd regular Chief and Council meeting, and to include the identification of an interim coordinator to assist in planning the events.

10.0 Marijuana

Chief and Council discussed at length the need to respond to recent developments pertaining to the legalization of marijuana. Related discussions included the need to clarify by means of an interim policy community places where members can and cannot smoke, with a clear stipulation that being under the influence will not be tolerated in the work place. It was recognized that a supporting public education agenda may be required and it was suggested that the community police and others be invited to make community presentations. The need to secure drug testing kits was also discussed. Council requested that the Interim Band Manager develop a draft Marijuana policy along with a supporting go-forward strategy, to be presented at the November 22nd regular Chief and Council meeting. Chief and Council further recognized the need to explore how a revived community Health and Safety Committee and existing health staff could assist in dealing with the legalization of marijuana. Chief and Council acknowledged the connections between community health and safety, emergency response, public awareness and policy development. Chief and Council concluded that it would be best to provide only interim policy direction on this matter given related complications, followed by more robust community engagement as part of the larger policy and procedures review process. Interim direction would include no smoking marijuana in Band buildings, including in the complex.

11.0 Hospital Donation

In response to a special request from Irene Armstrong, Chief and Council agreed to donate \$2,500.00 to the Lady Dunn Hospital as part of a \$300,000 funding campaign to pay for new digital radiography equipment.

12.0 Treaty Lands

Chief and Council agreed that it was necessary to formally petition the federal and Ontario governments for compensation as a result of the taking up of Robinson-Superior Treaty lands to accommodate Missanabie Cree First Nation's reserve. Council supported the need for the lands to be set aside for this purpose but also recognized that no further Robinson-Superior lands should be set aside for Missanabie Cree given that they are in fact a Nishnawbe-Aski Nation community. Chief and Council requested that the Interim Band Manager, at her earliest

convenience, oversee the drafting of a letter from the Chief to the appropriate federal and provincial agencies.

13.0 Guardianship

Chief and Council discussed the advancement of the community guardianship agenda and directed that the Interim Band Manager oversee the following next steps:

- Develop a letter to be sent by the Chief to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change protesting the way in which Michipicoten First Nation's request for source water protection funding was rejected, with a copy of the letter to be sent to the federal Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs prior to the Chief meeting with Minister Bennet in the coming weeks.
- Speak to John Kim Bell about ways in which \$15,000 may be secured through resource partners to undertake a state of the environment report that would summarize the cumulative effects of resource activities within Michipicoten First Nation's traditional territory since 1980 (and further back, conditional upon additional funding) using Landsat based and other information, consistent with an unsolicited proposal recently received.
- Develop a letter to be sent by the Chief to the President of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency formally expressing an interest in developing in partnership a Natural Law-based approach to environmental impact assessment as a follow-up to presentations previously made to the Agency.
- Submit an Expression of Interest to the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk before the November 30th deadline.
- Speak to Lori Churchill about ways in which the Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines may be able to assist in advancing the Michipicoten First Nation guardianship agenda by revisiting previous MENDM commitments and related discussions.

14.0 Closing Comments

Round table closing comments were provided, summarized as follows:

- I'm good with all of this
- I am concerned about the need for an appropriate level of follow-up
- I like that there are clear decisions at the end of every discussion
- I like that we had no talk of election even though it is right around the corner – we are still focusing on meeting the needs of the community

- I am grateful to the Creator for such a productive meeting

15.0 Closing Prayer: Gimma Kwe Tangie

16.0 Ratification

These minutes have been approved by the Michipicoten First Nation leadership.

Gimma Kwe Patricia Tangie