

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

195 Village Road
Cutler ON, P0P 1B0



Telephone: (705) 844-2418
Facsimile: (705) 844-2757

SRFN Chief and Council Meeting
February 28, 2023
APPROVED Minutes

Chair: Chief Brent Bissaillion
Council: Wilma Lee Johnston (Zoom), John (Jack) Trudeau, Steve Meawasige, Kerri Commanda, Shirley McLeod, Michelle Owl (Zoom)
Regrets: N/A

Director of Operations (DOO): Tracey Seabrook

Staff: Katrina Owl (Audio & Video); Lilli Doughty (Zoom), POLEA; Chris Weatherley, Director of Social Services; Lee Simpson, Cultural Worker, Jackie Toulouse, EA to the DOO

Recording Secretary: Lilli Doughty

1) **Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Remarks:**

- The February 28, 2023 Chief and Council meeting was called to order at 6:01pm
- The Chief welcome Council and the Community

2) **Adoption of Agenda**

MOTION: 2023-02-28-01	
That Chief and Council adopt the Agenda for the Chief and Council Meeting of February 28, 2023 as presented	
Moved by	Steve Meawasige
Seconded by	John (Jack) Trudeau
CARRIED	By Consensus

3) **Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

- None at this time

Meeting Recorder:	Lilli Doughty	Date Approved	2023-03-28
2023-02-28 Approved C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2023-03-28-02

4) Community Presentations

a) NativeLands

- The NativeLands team presented a PowerPoint and answered questions from Council

5) Approval of Previous Minutes

a) February 14, 2023

MOTION: 2023-02-28-02	
That Chief and Council approve the Council Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2022 as presented.	
Moved by	John (Jack) Trudeau
Seconded by	Kerri Commanda
CARRIED	By Consensus

6) Business Arising from Minutes

- None at this time

7) Reports

a) Chief's Report

MOTION: 2023-02-28-03	
That Chief and Council accept the Chief's Verbal Report as presented	
Moved by	Steve Meawasige
Seconded by	John (Jack) Trudeau
CARRIED	By Consensus
- There was not much to report as the Chief was sick	

8) Doodem & Committee Minutes & Reports

- None at this time

9) Business Arising from Minutes & Reports

- None at this time

10) Standing Items

- None at this time

Meeting Recorder:	Lilli Doughty	Date Approved	2023-03-28
2023-02-28 Approved C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2023-03-28-02

11) New Business

a.) ATR Process - Spanish - Residential School

MOTION: 2023-02-28-04	
That Chief and Council direct Canada (Indigenous Services Canada) to support us in the Addition to Reserve discussion to secure municipal lands that have been offered to us by the Town of Spanish and we also direct Canada (Indigenous Services Canada) to provide funding to support the process of acquiring the land	
Moved by	Steve Meawasige
Seconded by	Kerri Commanda
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serpent River Chief and Council have entered in an agreement with the Town of Spanish for land to be returned to the First Nation - Chief and Council would like to begin the process of an Addition To Reserve 	

b.) Language Conference Report - Lee Simpson

MOTION: 2023-02-28-05	
That Chief and Council approve the written “Language Conference Report”, as presented by the Cultural Worker, Lee Simpson	
Moved by	John (Jack) Trudeau
Seconded by	Steve Meawasige
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural Worker Lee Simpson presented a written report about a language conference he attend, and answered questions from Council 	

c.) Broken Hill Proprietary Panel - Update

<p>ISSUE:</p> <p>BHP has reached out to Serpent River First Nation regarding their Panel mine site powerline upgrade. SRFN Lands Staff attended a meeting with BHP in Elliot Lake to discuss this work and other projects on February 14 2023. This included site visits to the project areas.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: BHP Currently has a power corridor extending from its Quirke lake tailings management area to the Panel Mine site North of Quirke lake which extends approximately 9.5 kms. This line reached end of life and was de-energized in 2019 and the Panel site is currently powered by a diesel generator. BHP is looking to extend power from its Quirke lake power facility to the Panel site along Panel Mine rd as the old corridor is no longer viable and it is cost prohibitive. The new line will be just under 9.5 kms and require minor brush work and tree removal along Panel Mine Rd.</p> <p>CURRENT STATUS: More information is coming on this project but the brush work is planned for mid-late March.</p> <p>There are no assets in the SRFN mapping inventory that will be affected by this particular project. BHP is working with the Ministry of Conservation and Parks on a closure plan for the old corridor. SRFN has the opportunity to provide input on both the construction and old corridor closure plan..</p>

Meeting Recorder:	Lilli Doughty	Date Approved	2023-03-28
2023-02-28 Approved C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2023-03-28-02

d.) Broken Hill Proprietary Pronto - Update

ISSUE:

BHP has reached out to Serpent River First Nation regarding their Pronto Effluent Treatment Plant Intake Replacement project.

SRFN Lands Staff attended a meeting with BHP in Elliot Lake to discuss this work and other projects on February 14 2023. This included site visits to the project areas.

BACKGROUND: BHP plans to replace the existing Pronto Effluent Treatment Plant intake structure with an engineered pump station. The existing gravity fed intake system includes a vertical concrete structure located in the Pronto Holding Pond (PHP) and an intake pipeline that passes through the Causeway dam and enters the treatment plant through the concrete foundation. The gravity fed system is no longer “best practice” so BHP is moving to a more efficient pumphouse.

The work will not result in changes to the quantity or quality of the effluent leaving the Pronto facility. Ongoing monitoring will be in place.

All work will occur within their licensed area.

CURRENT STATUS:

Regulatory Requirements

The Project requires the following approvals:

1. Ontario Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks Environmental Compliance Approval Amendment.
2. Ontario Ministry of Forests and Natural Resources Licence to Harvest Forest Resources – required for removal of trees prior to construction.
3. Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Approval - RAL facilities are jointly licensed under CNSC Radioactive Waste Facility Operating License (WFOL) number WFOL-W5-3103.01/indf. WFOL condition 3.1 states, “No significant modifications to, or derivations from, the design operating conditions, licensed activities, policies, programs, and/or methods referred to in the documents in Appendix B may be made without the prior written approval of the Commission or a person authorized by the Commission.”
4. Municipal building permit – required for the new pump station.
5. Natural Resources Canada Explosives License – will be obtained by the selected proponent and is required to acquire and store industrial explosives for use in construction.

SRFN is welcome to provide any input on the project and to monitor the work as it is being undertaken.

Meeting Recorder:	Lilli Doughty	Date Approved	2023-03-28
2023-02-28 Approved C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2023-03-28-02

e.) HydroOne Conference Report

ISSUE: Received invitation from Hydro One to engage in a Northeast Projects Roundtable meeting held in Toronto on February 8, 2023 to discuss the proposed project identified by the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) of Ontario in the Need for Northeast Bulk System Reinforcements :

- A new ~205 km single circuit 500 kV transmission line between Mississagi Transmission Station (in Wharnccliffe, ON) and Hanmer Transmission Station (in Hanmer, ON) and addition of two new autotransformers at Mississagi TS to be in-service in 2029;
- A new ~75 km double circuit 230 kV transmission line between Mississagi TS and Third Line TS (near Sault Ste Marie) to be in-service in 2029;

BACKGROUND: Hydro One is undertaking a new direction in engaging with First Nation communities through earlier consultation and proposing partnership opportunities in various projects in our territories. The intent of this meeting was to begin an informal dialogue around the proposed project in your territory, and to offer you an overview of Hydro One's Equity partnership model through which we offer First Nations an opportunity to invest in a 50 percent equity stake in future capital transmission line projects exceeding \$100 million dollars.

CURRENT STATUS: As it Stands, Hydro has offered a 50% stake in this project, to be divided amongst those communities interested in investing.

Based off of a \$1,000,000,000 total project cost, which is an even number used only for demonstration purposes, Hydro One's responsibilities would include :

- Financing the assessments, surveys and construction, which is a requirement under the current regulations, and assume all risk and liability associated with these activities at a cost of \$600,000,000
- Pay the off the loan and interest associated with said loan

The First Nation partners would then be responsible to come up with the additional funding for the project, which based of this example would be \$400,000,000, divided by the number of communities investing. The return on the investment would be set at around 8-9% based off of market fluctuations and regulations that cap energy profit.

Eight communities have been consulted on this project and they include:

- Wahnapiatae First Nation
- Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
- Sagamok First Nation
- Serpent River First Nation
- Mississauga First Nation
- Thessalon First Nation
- Garden River First Nation

Meeting Recorder:	Lilli Doughty	Date Approved	2023-03-28
2023-02-28 Approved C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2023-03-28-02

- Batchewana First Nation

(All were present with the exception of Wahnapiatae and Thessalon)

There was a fair amount of interest in this project, however, the logistics of taking on a project of this size needs to be discussed amongst the communities interested. Hydro One was asked to host a follow-up meeting in approximately six weeks, which will occur in one of the local First Nations. It was suggested that a meeting be set for leadership and technical staff of each First Nation to be held prior to re-engaging with Hydro One.

f.) Re-purposing Dechlorination Project Funding

MOTION: 2023-02-28-06	
That Chief and Council recommend and support the repurposing of the Minor Capital Project - De-Chlorination Project - Water Treatment Plant - ARKH3 to support the maintenance repairs for the Water Treatment Plant	
Moved by	
Seconded by	
CARRIED	By Consensus
ISSUE: A Band Council Resolution is required to re-purpose funding to support water treatment plant critical maintenance needs.	
BACKGROUND: In 2018/19 \$500 k in funding was approved under a Minor Capital Project to support the De-chlorination design and implementation at the water treatment plant. In the summer of 2022 the design work was completed by Stephen Burnett and Associates. At the same time a decision was made in coordination with Indigenous Services Canada that a complete assessment of the water treatment plant was necessary to move forward in addressing some of the issues related to the need to have water trucked in over the cooler months. As a result, it was mutually agreed upon by Serpent River First Nation staff and Indigenous Services Canada engineers that it did not make sense to proceed with the De-chlorination project at this time and it would be resurrected once the full assessment was completed. (note: this was because any changes to the design of the water treatment plant may require a change in the design and implementation of the Dechlorination project) Indigenous Services Canada agreed to fund out of the project funding the design work already completed by Stephen Burnett and Associates and then further funded the assessment of the water treatment plant by Neegan Burnside out of this funding.	
CURRENT STATUS: Based upon the analysis done by Neegan Burnside and Serpent River First Nation Water Treatment Plant staff a budget was provided to Indigenous Services Canada in the amount of \$191,635. Indigenous Services Canada has requested a Band Council Resolution be provided for them to move forward in repurposing the funding from the \$500 k De-chlorination Project Funding	
KEY CONSIDERATIONS: The maintenance needs of the water treatment plant are critical to providing fresh water supply to the First Nation.	

Meeting Recorder:	Lilli Doughty	Date Approved	2023-03-28
2023-02-28 Approved C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2023-03-28-02

g.) Community Wrap-Around Initiative - IT Implementation

MOTION: 2023-02-28-07	
That Chief and Council continue their relationship with Cygnus Group to oversee the implementation of the plan as per the attached contract, initiated with Phase One; and Therefore be it further resolved that Serpent River First Nation secure the funding through the Community Development Wrap Around Initiative to support the implementation of the IT Plan - Phase One	
Moved by	
Seconded by	
CARRIED	By Consensus
<p>ISSUE: A band council resolution is required to support the implementation of Phase One of the IT Plan.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: In May of 2022 through the Professional and Institutional Development Serpent River First Nation submitted and was approved for funding to support an in depth review and assessment of their IT Infrastructure and Systems. This work has been ongoing since June of 2022 and a report was submitted to the Director of Operations detailing an implementation plan and recommendations for moving forward. Due to the sensitive nature of the information contained in the report it will not be made public however it will form a roadmap for how we move forward to address the significant IT issues and security risks we currently face.</p> <p>CURRENT STATUS: Building IT capacity is one of the five priorities for Serpent River First Nation under the Community Development Wrap Around Initiative. The plan engages many different partners to support the implementation of the plan under the project management of Cygnus Group. There is currently funding available to support a portion of the first phase of the implementation plan which includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full oversight of the implementation and support of Serpent River First Nations IT Infrastructure 2. Migration to Microsoft 365 (recommendation in the report to address current security risks) 3. Training to support a successful implementation of Microsoft 365 (Microsoft Training via BDO Partners and Microsoft Training Specialists) A combination of face to face training and virtual training. <p>KEY CONSIDERATIONS: It is critical we address the recommendations in the IT Plan to mitigate any security risks we currently face.</p> <p>Whereas funding was secured to support the development of an IT Infrastructure and System review and Implementation Plan; and</p> <p>Whereas Serpent River First Nation currently is facing identified and confirmed security risks; and</p> <p>Whereas Cygnus Group has led the assessment and review to ensure the most economical approach to addressing these concerns is in place</p>	

h.) Community Events Calendar

- The Director of Operations (Interim), presented the Community Calendar to Chief and Council and answered questions
--

Meeting Recorder:	Lilli Doughty	Date Approved	2023-03-28
2023-02-28 Approved C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2023-03-28-02

i.) Summer Jobs Opportunities - Verbal Update

- The Director of Operations (Interim), gave a verbal update on “Summer Jobs Opportunities”, and answered questions from Council

12. Community Questions and Answers

- None at this time

13. Next Meeting Dates

a) C&C Duly Convened Meeting – March 14, 2023

14. Adjournment

MOTION: 2023-02-28-08	
That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council Meeting of Tuesday, February 28 , 2023 at 7:44 p.m.	
Moved by	Shirley
Seconded by	
CARRIED	By Consensus

Meeting Recorder:	Lilli Doughty	Date Approved	2023-03-28
2023-02-28 Approved C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2023-03-28-02