

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

195 Village Road
Cutler ON, P0P 1B0



Telephone: (705) 844-2418
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SRFN Chief and Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 23, 2024
Draft Minutes

Chair: Wilma-Lee Johnston

Council: Shirley McLeod, John (Jack) Trudeau, Michelle Owl (zoom), Kerri Commanda (zoom), Steve Meawasige (zoom)

Regrets: None at this time

Director of Operations (IDOO): Tracey Seabrook

Staff: Madelaine O'Neill - POLEA, Orion Southwind – Tenant Liaison

Community members in person: 8

Attendees via Zoom: 11

Recording Secretary: Madelaine O'Neill, POLEA

1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Remarks:

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| - The duly convened Chief and Council meeting of Tuesday, April 23, 2024 was called to order at 6:07pm
- Opening prayer by Councillor Trudeau |
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2) Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: 2024-04-23-01

That Chief and Council adopt the Agenda for the Chief and Council Meeting of Tuesday, April 23, 2024, as amended

Moved by	John (Jack) Trudeau
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Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
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CARRIED	By Consensus
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| Deferred item 11. b) Economic Development Department – Selection of Consultant
Deferred item 11. h) First Nations Major Projects Coalition Society – Briefing Note |
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3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

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| - Councillor Trudeau declared a conflict of interest on item 11. d) SRFN LP - Board Recommendation |
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4) Community Presentations

a.) Koognaasewin Project Update

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| - Chief and Council reviewed and discussed the briefing on the first meeting of the Koognaasewin Technical Committee which took place on December 15, 2023 |
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Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O'Neill	Date Approved	2024-05-14
2024-04-23 DRAFT C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2024-05-14-02

- At the first meeting of the Koognaasewin Negotiation Committee, several key discussions took place, setting the stage for work required over the next 2-3 years to support North Shore communities in their negotiations with Canada and Ontario to secure fiscal agreements and coordination agreements to support their assertion of jurisdiction over child welfare

5) Approval of Previous Minutes

a) March 26, 2024

MOTION: 2024-04-23-02	
That Chief and Council approve the Council Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 26, 2024 as presented	
Moved by	Kerri Commanda
Seconded by	John (Jack) Trudeau
CARRIED	By Consensus

b) October 24, 2023 – Updated Minutes

MOTION: 2024-04-23-03	
That Chief and Council approve the Updated Council Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 24, 2023 as presented	
Moved by	Shirley McLeod
Seconded by	John (Jack) Trudeau
CARRIED	By Consensus
- The previously approved minutes for October 24, 2023 required edits and were updated	

6) Business Arising from Minutes

- None at this time

7) Reports

a) Chief’s Report

- None at this time

8) Doodem & Committee Minutes & Reports

a.) Mukwa Doodem Draft Minutes – February 7, 2024

MOTION: 2024-04-23-04	
That Chief and Council approve the Mukwa Doodem Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2024 as presented	
Moved by	Kerri Commanda
Seconded by	Steve Meawasige
CARRIED	By Consensus

b.) Migizi Doodem Draft Minutes – May 6, 2023

MOTION: 2024-04-23-05	
That Chief and Council approve the Migizi Doodem Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2023 as presented	

Recording Secretary:	Madelaine O’Neill	Date Approved	2024-05-14
2024-04-23 DRAFT C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2024-05-14-02

Moved by	John (Jack) Trudeau
Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus

c.) Mukwa Doodem Draft Minutes – June 23, 2023

MOTION: 2024-04-23-06	
That Chief and Council approve the Mukwa Doodem Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2023 as presented	
Moved by	Kerri Commanda
Seconded by	Steve Meawasige
CARRIED	By Consensus

d.) Migizi Doodem Draft Minutes – July 6, 2023

MOTION: 2024-04-23-07	
That Chief and Council approve the Migizi Doodem Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2023 as presented	
Moved by	Shirley McLeod
Seconded by	John (Jack) Trudeau
CARRIED	By Consensus

9) Business Arising from Minutes & Reports

- None at this time

10) Standing Items

- Financial audits

11) New Business

a.) Retirees & Chief and Council Benefits

MOTION: 2024-04-23-08	
That Chief and Council authorize the implementation of retirement benefits at the retirees cost for employees and Chief and Council and request the Director of Operations and Director of Human Resources to bring forth policy to Chief and Council to support the implementation	
Moved by	Kerri Commanda
Seconded by	John (Jack) Trudeau
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serpent River Chief and Council acknowledge the need to be competitive in an extremely tight labour market - The First Nation will need to be creative in ways to attract employees to long term employment in this labour market - The implementation of retirement benefits has little cost implications other than oversight for Serpent River First Nation 	

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b.) Economic Development – Selection of Consultant – Strategic Plan

- Deferred to a later date

c.) Disposition of Asset – White Van

- Chief and Council decided to proceed with putting up a bid for the 2007 Ford Van Econoline E350 Van

d.) SRFN LP Board Recommendation

MOTION: 2024-04-23-09
That Chief and Council accept the Limited Partnership Board of Directors’ recommendation to appoint Germaine Elliot to the Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership Board of Directors

Moved by	Michelle Owl
Seconded by	Kerri Commanda
CARRIED	By Consensus

- The Serpent River Limited Partnership board of directors requires a female representative to be appointed to the board as per bylaws

- Angela Trudeau, the former Secretary Treasurer of the Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership, resigned from her position on the Board on February 26, 2024. Angela Trudeau’s email communicating her resignation to the Board was sent to the board. The Limited Partnership posted the position to the community for a female representative. The board has received two applications for the position

- The Limited Partnership Board currently has four of its five positions filled (President and three Directors) and can meet quorum. The bylaws state that the corporation shall be managed by a board of five directors. At least two gender identities must be represented on the board of directors at all times. The Limited Partnership reviewed the applications and passed a motion in support of Germaine Elliot’s application

- The Limited Partnership By-laws require that Chief and Council (the Shareholders) be informed of Board member resignations so that Chief and Council can accept the resignation on behalf of the corporation

- The Limited Partnership Board of Directors may also make recommendations for new Board members for Chief and Council consideration and approval. The Board would like to propose Germaine Elliot for a Director position with the Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership Board of Directors

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e.) SRFN LP Business Name

MOTION: 2024-04-23-10	
That Chief and Council accept the Limited Partnership Board of Directors’ recommendation to change the name to Mnido Ziibiis (Spirit River) and use the tagline Wii-Saaknigaade (We are open for business)	
Moved by	Kerri Commanda
Seconded by	Steve Meawasige
CARRIED	By Consensus
<p>- The name of the Partnership is currently SRFN Limited Partnership. The agreement says that at a future date the name of the Partnership will be changed based upon the outcome of a community naming competition carried out at SRFN, and that such name, once given, will not be changed again without approval of both Partners (the name of the general partner can also be changed)</p> <p>- On review of the Articles of Incorporation the Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership identified the requirement for a new name to be established for the Limited Partnership. December 14, 2024 the Board Agenda addressed the name change and a motion was passed to establish a naming contest. It was posted on social media accounts for SRFN starting in December until March</p> <p>- On March 28, 2024 at the Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership board meeting the names that had been submitted were reviewed and voted on, they are as follows: Genebek Waazhing (Snake Pit), Mnido Ziibiis (Sprit River), Ininaatigokaa (There are many maples “Abundance”), Humble Beginnings, Wii-Saaknigaade (We are open for business)</p> <p>- The Serpent River Limited Partnership Board supports a name change of Mnido Ziibiis (Spirit River) and would like to use a tagline suggested as a name submission of Wii-Saaknigaade (We are open for business)</p>	

f.) FEDNOR - Northern Ontario Development Program – 1st Stage Application Quarry

MOTION: 2024-04-23-11	
That Chief and Council authorize the Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership to proceed with the application for funding described to ensure available funds are readily available for legal and consultation costs associated with the negotiation for the proposed Quarry	
Moved by	John (Jack) Trudeau
Seconded by	Kerri Commanda
CARRIED	By Consensus
<p>- Initial conversations began in 2011 regarding the Quarry/Darien Aggregates and Serpent River First Nation. In 2017 Mississaugi, Sagamok and Serpent River First Nation agreed to work together with SRFN being the point of contact. Community Engagement has taken place multiple times over a number of years, Environmental consultation was completed and SRFN C&C is satisfied with the information provided to ensure land and environment has minimized impacts</p> <p>- On January 29, 2024 a letter was provided by Chief and Council instructing the SRFN LP that they are to ensure an IBA is complete by July 31, 2024 or it will be handed over to Mississaugi First Nation as per identified protocol</p>	

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- The SRFN LP in preparation for final negotiations with Rankin/Darien Aggregates has identified that funding resources will greatly assist with the success and strategic planning associated with the legal fees consultation and preparation of the Impact Benefit Agreement between the proponent and Serpent River First Nation

g.) FEDNOR – Northern Ontario Development Program – 1st Stage Application Agawa

MOTION: 2024-04-23-12

That Chief and Council authorize the Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership to proceed with the application for funding described to pursue a feasibility study and strategic planning for Agawa Crafts and the growth of tourism for the business

Moved by	John (Jack) Trudeau
Seconded by	Michelle Owl
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Agawa Crafts is a newly acquired business for SRFN
- Agawa Crafts is a seasonal business that has limitations due to location and infrastructure
- A funding opportunity to support a feasibility study was approved by the Agawa board of directors in January
- Securing this funding will ensure that the Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership can move forward with an analysis to identify strategic planning opportunities to extend the season and promote growth
- The funding under the Northern Ontario Development program is up to 90% of total associated costs

h.) First Nations Major Projects Coalition Society

- Deferred to a later date

12. Next Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, May 14, 2024

13.) Adjournment

MOTION: 2023-04-23-13	
That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council Meeting of, Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 8:04pm.	
Moved by	Shirley McLeod
Seconded by	
CARRIED	By Consensus

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