

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

195 Village Road
Cutler ON, P0P 1B0



Telephone: (705) 844-2418
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SRFN Chief and Council Meeting
Thursday, May 28, 2026
Approved Minutes

Chair: James Owl

Council: Erin Carne (zoom), Nicole Pelletier, Rebecca Csaszar, Justin Urquhart, George Coughlin (zoom), Angela Trudeau (zoom)

Regrets: None at this time

Director of Operations (DOO): None at this time

Staff: Leila Macumber, Director of Health and Wellness

Recording Secretary: Madelaine O'Neill, POLEA

1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Remarks:

- The duly convened Chief and Council meeting of Thursday, May 28, 2026 was called to order at 6:02pm
- Chief welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided brief opening remarks. He noted that spring clean-up activities are underway in the community, the docks are anticipated to open soon with improvements made as well, that preparations continue for the summer season with summer student recruitment underway and applications coming in
- Chief further reminded Councillors attending virtually to ensure cameras remain on throughout the duration of the meeting

2) Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: 2026-05-28-01

That Chief and Council adopt the Agenda for the Council Meeting of Thursday, May 28, 2026 as presented

Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

- Councillor Csaszar, Councillor Pelletier and Councillor Urquhart all declared conflict on item 8 e) 2. Residency Permit – Kristie Luff

4) Community Presentations:

a) Lake Huron Tributaries

- Ken Meawasige returned to provide a presentation regarding the Tributaries First (TF) Initiative, an Indigenous-led watershed stewardship, governance, education, and environmental monitoring initiative

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focused on the protection of tributaries and watershed systems connected to the Great Lakes Basin and Lake Huron region

- Chief acknowledged Council's general support of the initiative and that future partnership opportunities may be brought forward for further consideration; as well, that due to time constraints, the matter could not be provided the fulsome discussion it deserves within the limited time available during the meeting (15 minutes)
- Direction was provided for these conversations/matters to continue through the Marten Doodem (Lands and Environment Committee) for further discussion and brought back to the Council table where appropriate
- It was also requested that any future presentations include a short summary outlining any specific requests, funding requirements, resources commitments or areas where support from Serpent River First Nation may be sought, to assist Council in evaluating next steps

5) Approval of Previous Minutes

a) Thursday, May 14, 2026

MOTION: 2026-05-28-02

That Chief and Council approve the previous Council Meeting Minutes of Thursday, May 14, 2026 as presented

Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

6) Business Arising From Previous Minutes:

a) Spending Plan – First Nations Drinking Water Settlement

MOTION: 2026-05-28-03

That Chief and Council direct Administration to procure the services of a professional CCTV contractor to design and install a CCTV system capable of monitoring all entrances to the community as well as key intersections within Serpent River First Nation. Based on the previous proposal for this work, an overall project budget of 500k-600k including signage advising of the use of cameras throughout the community, would ensure an effective surveillance system

Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Serpent River First Nation is recognized as an impacted First Nation under the First Nations Drinking Water Settlement and has received approximately \$937,853.01 in settlement funding since 2024
- The Serpent River First Nation Finance Department has allocated these funds to discretionary reserves
- Through the initial 6 months of the current term of Chief and Council, a number of health and safety issues have been raised related to the monitoring and prevention of suspicious activity throughout the community
- A proposal was presented to NFCS in January of 2026 to fund the installation of street view cameras and signage throughout the community; though the proposal was declined
- In consideration of the identified community safety concerns and the previously declined external funding proposal, the proposed spending plan of the First Nations Drinking Water Settlement dollars explores utilizing a portion of these funds towards community safety enhancements, specifically the development and implementation of a community CCTV/security camera system

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- The potential scope of the project and estimated implementation costs ranges between approximately \$500,000–\$600,000
- The project would support the broader objective of enhancing community safety, monitoring key public areas and facilities, and supporting emergency response and deterrence efforts through improved surveillance capabilities
- As well, preserving approximately \$400,000 in remaining settlement funds for future community initiatives and priorities

7) Reports:

a) Chief's Report

MOTION: 2026-05-28-04

That Chief and Council approve the Chief's Report dated May 28, 2026 as presented

Moved by	Nicole Pelletier
Seconded by	George Coughlin
CARRIED	By Consensus
- The Chief provided a report covering ongoing operational, strategic, and community initiatives occurring throughout the reporting period of May 9 – May 21, 2026 - Updates were provided regarding the completion of recruitment for the Director of Operations position, with Chief & Council working toward an offer for the successful candidate - An update was also provided regarding the engagement of MNP to provide interim financial advisory services in support of advancing the First Nation's plan to improve operations - The report also included ongoing departmental work plan implementation, weekly Senior Management Team meetings, and Phase 1 employee training initiatives focused on workplace violence and harassment prevention and First Aid training - Additional operational updates included ongoing Robinson Huron Treaty Annuity audit work, the 2025/2026 annual audit process, the re-establishment of the Elders Long Term Care project, summer student employment planning, minors annuity payment certificate gap analysis work, planning for the upcoming Spring Membership Vote (June 27-28, 2026), and ongoing Serpent River First Nation Strategic Planning and Capital Planning initiatives - The report further referenced ongoing development of internal funding and reporting tracking systems, workforce development initiatives related to Acid Site Remediation training opportunities, planning activities for the upcoming Quarterly Meeting (June 27, 2026), and engagement planning related to the HONI (Waasmoowin Project) Capacity Development Fund - The Chief also discussed various internal and external meetings attended throughout the reporting period, including strategic planning sessions, health and safety planning meetings, CHRT 41 project development meetings, Culture and Housing Doodem meetings, and external discussions related to the Highway-17 resurfacing project and potential opportunities for Serpent River First Nation	

b) Councillor Report – Outdoor Education

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MOTION: 2026-05-28-05	
That Chief and Council approve the Councillor's Report dated May 28, 2026 as presented	
Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	George Coughlin
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Councillor Csaszar provided a report regarding attendance at the Outdoor Class Open House hosted through the partnership between Huron Superior Catholic District School Board and Serpent River First Nation at the former Rockhaven School location - The report discussed the land-based and experiential learning opportunities offered through the program, including outdoor education activities, cultural learning components, and hands-on experiences supporting student growth and engagement - Positive feedback shared by families and staff emphasized the program's supportive learning environment and the confidence and independence that students are developing through participation - Discussion within the report also noted opportunities to strengthen Serpent River First Nation involvement in the program through increased participation from local knowledge keepers, cultural educators, and community members with traditional teachings and land-based skills that could further enhance student learning experiences	

c) Councillor Report – SRFN/Town of Spanish Joint Task Force

MOTION: 2026-05-28-06	
That Chief and Council approve the Councillor's Report dated May 28, 2026 as presented	
Moved by	George Coughlin
Seconded by	Nicole Pelletier
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Councillor Csaszar provided a report regarding attendance at the Spanish Joint Task Force meeting held on May 12, 2026 in the Town of Spanish Council Chambers - The meeting focused on strengthening partnerships and collaboration opportunities between participating organizations and communities, with discussion centered on infrastructure, recreation, employment, emergency services, and community development initiatives - Topics discussed included playground and recreation opportunities, waste management and recycling concerns, Elders and cultural inclusion initiatives, highway and municipal infrastructure projects, and opportunities related to employment and economic development - The report also noted ongoing discussions regarding emergency services collaboration, joint training opportunities, and regional communication and partnership-building efforts - The meeting concluded with continued interest in strengthening inter-community relationships, improving communication, and identifying collaborative opportunities that support community growth and service improvements	

d) Councillor Report – Waasmoowin Strategic Planning

MOTION: 2026-05-28-07	
That Chief and Council approve the Councillor's Report dated May 28, 2026 as presented	

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Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Erin Carne
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Councillor Urquhart provided a report regarding attendance at the Waasmoowin Project Ceremony as well as strategic planning sessions held May 12–14, 2026 with Hydro One representatives, the WOCC Elders Council, and members of the WOCC Board of Directors - The report highlighted participation in a water and tree ceremony focused on bringing together project participants and community members to recognize shared intentions related to the Waasmoowin project - Strategic planning sessions included presentations from the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) regarding energy project processes within Ontario, as well as discussions with Hydro One related to vegetation management and ongoing engagement approaches - The sessions also included dialogue regarding the future evolution of the project management team beyond the completion and electrification of the Waasmoowin Transmission Line, including brainstorming discussions surrounding future energy project collaboration opportunities between participating partners and communities - No formal decisions were brought forward during the sessions	

e) Councillor Report – Child Wellbeing Committee

MOTION: 2026-05-28-08	
That Chief and Council approve the Councillor’s Report dated May 28, 2026 as presented	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	George Coughlin
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Councillor Urquhart provided a report regarding participation in a Child Wellbeing Committee meeting, where Gloria Daybutch attended and shared experiences related to the development and implementation of Mississauga First Nation’s Child Wellbeing Law and Social Services approaches - The report highlighted discussion surrounding early intervention and prevention-focused service models, including family engagement supports intended to address concerns before escalation into child protection matters - Reference was made to preservation-focused approaches and customary care practices aimed at supporting families while reducing involvement with the formal court system where appropriate - Additional discussion included alternative intervention approaches, community responsibility and involvement in child wellbeing, and the importance of learning from the experiences and practices of other First Nations currently implementing child wellbeing and prevention service models - The report emphasized the value of continued dialogue and knowledge sharing as Serpent River First Nation explores future prevention and child wellbeing service approaches within the community	

f) In Camera Meeting – Human Resources and Child Welfare Matters

MOTION: 2026-05-28-09	
That Chief and Council of Serpent River First Nation will open an In-Camera Meeting immediately following the adjournment of the May 28, 2026 Duly Convened Meeting of Chief and Council, for the purpose of	

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discussing matters related to employee matters, child welfare and compensation and employment terms for the Director of Operations position	
Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus
- The Chief and Council of the Serpent River First Nation were elected under the guidelines of the First Nations Election act on November 21, 2025 - The Chief and Council of the Serpent River First Nation have individually sworn an oath to the community and collectively have committed to following the Serpent River First Nation Governance Manual - The Chief and Council of the Serpent River First Nation is committed to conducting all business in an open, transparent and accountable manner - From time to time, the Chief and Council will be faced with situations where legal or human resources matters must be discussed in a closed session to maintain lawyer/client privilege, or to protect privacy - Chief and Council is currently discussing matters related to employee matters, child welfare, and compensation and employment terms for the Director of Operations position	

8) Doodem & Committee Minutes & Reports:

a) May 13, 2026 – Eagle Doodem Meeting Minutes

MOTION: 2026-05-28-10	
That Chief and Council approve the Eagle Doodem Meetings Minutes of May 13, 2026 as presented	
Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	Erin Carne
CARRIED	By Consensus

b) May 11, 2026 – Loon Doodem Meeting Minutes

MOTION: 2026-05-28-11	
That Chief and Council approve the Loon Doodem Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2026 as presented	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Erin Carne
CARRIED	By Consensus

c) Membership (Section 10) Applications

1) Mia Ginette Rainville

MOTION: 2026-05-28-12	
That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for Mia Ginette Rainville as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus

2) Samuel Andrew Rainville

MOTION: 2026-05-28-13

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That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for Samuel Andrew Rainville as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Erin Carne
Seconded by	Angela Trudeau
CARRIED	By Consensus

3) William Paul Showan

MOTION: 2026-05-28-14	
That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for William Paul Showan as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	Angela Trudeau
CARRIED	By Consensus

4) Ty Anthony Showan

MOTION: 2026-05-28-15	
That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for Ty Anthony Showan as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	Angela Trudeau
CARRIED	By Consensus

5) Alexis Marie Allen

MOTION: 2026-05-28-16	
That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for Alexis Marie Allen as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Rebecca Cszar
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

6) Elizabeth Rose Casganette

MOTION: 2026-05-28-17	
That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for Elizabeth Rose Casganette as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	George Coughlin
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

7) Maxwell Norman Soundy

MOTION: 2026-05-28-18

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That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for Maxwell Norman Soundy as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus

8) Kylie Leah Soundy

MOTION: 2026-05-28-19	
That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for Kylie Leah Soundy as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Nicole Pelletier
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus

9) Michael John Czako

MOTION: 2026-05-28-20	
That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for Michael John Czako as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Nicole Pelletier
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

10) Christian Almond John Czako

MOTION: 2026-05-28-21	
That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for Christian Almond John Czako as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

11) Nathan Christopher Czako

MOTION: 2026-05-28-22	
That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for Nathan Christopher Czako as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Erin Carne
Seconded by	Angela Trudeau
CARRIED	By Consensus

12) Daisy Elizabeth Czako

MOTION: 2026-05-28-23	
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That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for Daisy Elizabeth Czako as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Angela Trudeau
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus

13) Michael Frederick Johnston

MOTION: 2026-05-28-24	
That Chief and Council approve the Community Voting Process for Michael Frederick Johnston as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	George Coughlin
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

d) Approval of Membership Applications

- Deferred - A draft comparison summary of the Serpent River First Nation Membership Code provisions relating the Membership by Birth and Membership by Application was presented for review and discussion - Discussion occurred regarding how Serpent River First Nation has historically interpreted and applied the membership rules compared to the wording currently contained within the Code itself - Chief clarified that Membership by Birth applications eligible for direct Chief and Council approval are based on parent eligibility requirements outlined within the Code, specifically: ➤ The applicant being a registered Indian entitled to be on the Serpent River First Nation Band List; ➤ Being born before June 9, 1987; or ➤ Where born after June 9, 1987, both parents meet the eligibility requirements - Membership by Application provisions proceeding through Community Vote reference applicants with at least two (2) grandparents who are or, if no longer living are deemed to have been entitled to be registered as Indians, together with cultural connection to Serpent River First Nation through a band member/citizen of the Serpent River First Nation and at least eighteen (18) years of age - Accordingly, for verification purposes, two (2) membership applications previously anticipated for Chief and Council approval were deferred back to the Loon Doodem (Governance and Membership Committee) for further review and research to determine whether the applications will be appropriately brought forward through Community Vote or directly to Chief and Council for consideration	
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e) Residency Permit Applications

1) Alexandra McKie

MOTION: 2026-05-28-25	
That Chief and Council approve the Residency Permit Application for Alexandra McKie as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Angela Trudeau
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

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2) Kristie Luff

MOTION: 2026-05-28-26	
That Chief and Council approve the Residency Permit Application for Kristie Luff as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Angela Trudeau
Seconded by	George Coughlin
CARRIED	By Consensus

3) Steve McCullough

MOTION: 2026-05-28-27	
That Chief and Council approve the Residency Permit Application for Steve McCullough as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Angela Trudeau
Seconded by	Nicole Pelletier
CARRIED	By Consensus

4) Claude Ouimette

MOTION: 2026-05-28-28	
That Chief and Council approve the Residency Permit Application for Claude Ouimette as recommended by the Loon Doodem	
Moved by	Rebecca Csaszar
Seconded by	Justin Urquhart
CARRIED	By Consensus

9) Standing Items:

a) Audit Update

- Chief provided an updated and noted that work towards the 2025/26 audit remains ongoing; Serpent River First Nation staff continue to work with BDO to transfer financial information and supporting documentation for review
- An update was also provided on the Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) Past Annuities Settlement audit, with indication that the process is progressing well and remains on target

b) Quarterly Meetings

- Chief provided an update regarding planning for the upcoming Community Quarterly Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 2026
- Staff have begun preliminary brainstorming discussions, including potential departmental presentations and community engagement pieces for the agenda
- Chief also noted that ongoing Fibre Optic and Wi-Fi upgrades that are underway within the community are anticipated to improve virtual connectivity and hybrid meeting capabilities moving forward

c) RHTLF/RHT (as arises)

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- Chief advised that a special Council working session took place on May 25, 2026 to further discuss the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHTLF) and other related governance organizations/matters allowed –
- The working session was scheduled following discussions at the duly convened Chief and Council meeting of May 14, 2026 and allowed for further internal discussion and consideration of potential next steps, including the drafting of correspondence for presentation to the RHTLF

d) CHRT 41 Projects

- The three (3) community projects (Community Round House, Social Services Administration Building and Mount Lake Family Cultural Centre), project number #PO71995; have moved to the design procurement application stage
- Closing questions of the project review stage have been answered for both the Social Services Administration Building and the Community Round House, no further questions were received for the Mount Lake Family Cultural Centre
- Proposals for architectural and engineering design have been received from the following architectural firms:
 - Bridgman Collaborative - \$570,718
 - A-49 - \$355,350
 - 3rd Line Studio - \$182,000
 - Smoke Architecture - \$287,187

10) New Business:

a) Fuel Rebate for SRFN Members

MOTION: 2026-05-28-29

That Chief and Council request the Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership (SRFN LP) to investigate potential rebate options for all Serpent River First Nation members who utilize the Gas Bar and submit a report to Chief and Council

Moved by	Justin Urquhart
Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Chief presented a briefing note regarding affordability concerns raised by the Elders Council related to rising fuel costs and cost of living pressures impacting Serpent River First Nation members, particularly those on fixed incomes - It outlined the importance of transportation for medical appointments, shopping, and maintaining independence, as well as the continued use of the Serpent River First Nation Gas Bar by its members - Key considerations included customer loyalty to Serpent River First Nation businesses, increased financial pressures associated with fuel costs, the positive cash flow position of the Serpent River First Nation Gas Bar over the past two reporting years, and the current cashback structure available through the Canco Card program - Direction was provided requesting that the SRFN LP investigate potential fuel rebate options for Serpent River First Nation members utilizing the Serpent River First Nation Gas Bar and submit a report back to Chief and Council	

11) Community Questions and Answers:

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- Community member inquired about the working structure of the recently posted Trust Development Working Group (TDWG) Administrative Assistant position. Direction was provided to the member to contact the Serpent River First Nation Human Resources Department for additional clarification and recruitment related information – hr.jobs@serpentrivernfn.com

12) **Next Meeting Date(s):**

- Thursday, June 11, 2026

13) **Adjournment:**

MOTION: 2026-05-28-30

That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council Meeting of Thursday, May 28 at 8:23pm.

Moved by	George Coughlin
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Seconded by	Rebecca Csaszar
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CARRIED	By Consensus
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