

**Aboriginal Peoples Family Accord
Interior Region Planning Committee
Sensisyusten House of Learning ~ Westbank, BC
26 October 2005 ~ 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

Board Attendees: Debbie Abbott, Marg Ahdemar, Lori Swanson, Donna Steeves, Deb Canada, Robbin Lulua, and Pauline Terbasket

Political Committee Attendees: Dave Hodgson, Bob McCuaig, and Chief Lynda Price

Staff: Eliza Terbasket, Jim MacArthur, and Dan Odenbach

Guests: Kelly Kubik

Recording Secretary: Sandra Young

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer – 9:33 AM

Opening Prayer provided by Pauline Terbasket

2. Review and Adoption of the Agenda

Debbie will provide an update during the Additional Agenda Items portion of the meeting.

***Motion 1** - to adopt the agenda items as proposed.*

Moved by:** Marg Ahdemar; **Seconded by:** Lori Swanson; **Question called;** All in Favour; **Motion carried.

3. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes and Review of Action Items

- July 14, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Overview of Discussion:

- Clarification is needed for Fred Storey's comments on page 2 of the meeting minutes, as it doesn't reflect what he was requesting of the APFA.
- There was no discussion of the letter Fred requested at the July board meeting.
- It was requested that the APFA write a letter to the Métis and to the government.
- The July meeting minutes cannot be changed to reflect Fred's request.
- The spelling of "Rick Wilmot" must be changed to omit the "n" in his last name.
- It was noted the minutes do not accurately reflect the discussion around the APFA draft conceptual model on pages 4 and 5. There is no clear action on what is to be undertaken as a follow-up.
- It was requested the meeting minutes from each board meeting be given to the board prior to each upcoming meeting to facilitate discussion and adoption of the minutes.

Action: Write a letter to the government and MPCBC stating the APFA supports the Métis Nation of British Columbia.

Motion 2 - to accept the July 14-15, 2005 meeting minutes with the noted edits.

Moved by: Lori Swanson; **Seconded by:** Marg Ahdemar; *Question called; All in Favour; Motion carried.*

The action items from the July board meeting and the conference calls were read aloud to the board members. It was noted Lenora Angel was expected to attend the 24 August 2005 meeting, but only Frank van Zandwijk attended. The Westbank gathering has been moved from 24 November to 28 November to avoid conflict with the First Ministers Meeting.

Overview of Discussion:

- It was asked if the action items for 24 August should reflect the fact that Doug Hayman attended the morning portion of the meeting and Doug Hughes attended for the full day.
- It was asked if these action items are to take the place of the minutes as a new procedure or if they are a new presentation of records. It was noted the meeting minutes have a lot of detail so the action items are separated out; action items are still a part of the meeting minutes.
- Sub-committees should submit a report to the board for review and approval as a formal record of their meetings. Recommendations and action items from the committees should be attached to the report. This will acknowledge the work done by the committee and allow for board accountability so it is not left to staff.

Recommendation to have board members submit their committee reports and recommendations, which will be attached to the action items of every meeting.

Motion 3 - to accept the action items from the conference calls.

Moved by: Pauline Terbasket; **Seconded by:** Marg Ahdemar; *Question called; All in Favour; Motion carried.*

4. APFA Financial Update

The September 2005 APFA Financial Management Report was read to the board members. It was noted the Total Revenue should read "495,000" rather than "395,000". The Mental Health expenditures are expected to rise sharply over the next few months due to an increase in research and related costs. The Supported Child Care budget has now been spent and the project can be closed.

Overview of Discussion:

- It was noted the forecasted numbers will no longer be true if the Total Revenue is incorrect. The line items will need to be realigned to reflect the correct Total Revenue.
- The \$80,000 allotted to the community gatherings should become a new line item rather than another project.
- Recommendation to have the FMR updated and circulated to the board.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes

- Update from the Protocol Working Group

The Protocol Working Group met with Frank van Zandwijk for about two hours but did not refer to a document at the time. The previous document was reviewed and was seen as a work in progress, as much of it can wait until the relationship with the Ministry evolves and matures. The third draft of the protocol submitted to Lenora Angel on 21 September is our idea of what a protocol with the Ministry should be. Lenora has not yet replied. Lenora informed the APFA that she did not receive the draft protocol, even though it was sent to not only Lenora, but also Frank and a few others. It has since been resubmitted to Lenora and many others approximately ten days ago.

Overview of Discussion:

- The draft protocol should read "Draft 3".
- Lenora Angel now reports to Arn van Iersel, associate director.
- We are looking for a response to the Draft 3 protocol from Lenora Angel.

- Update from 2005/05 Budget Working Group

The Budget Working Group met to discuss how to spend the \$495,000. The budget scenario was read aloud to the board. The budget was complemented by a business plan, which was submitted in September. The other regions will have their funding by 1 November, but because we do not yet have a protocol, our funding will be received later.

Overview of Discussion:

- It was noted this budget scenario is very restrictive of staff and board travel.
- Both the budget and the business plan sits at headquarters with Lenora and Frank.
- The agreements must be signed before the funding can be released. This explains why the Financial Management Report has not been updated, because there has been no formal confirmation of the budget.
- The September 2005 FMR could be accepted as is, since it can now be viewed as correct.
- It was suggested the Budget Working Group should not be referenced as such; it should be under the business plan for 2005/06.
- Frank has indicated he wants to have a response to the APFA by 1 November. The Premier has stated he wants this process to move forward, and Arn van Iersel is an indication of this commitment.
- We want this process to move forward and be Aboriginal driven. Although it looks positive, there are five regions to deal with, and much diversity throughout the province.

Motion 4 - *to accept the September 2005 FMR as submitted.*

Moved by: *Pauline Terbasket; Seconded by:* *Marg Ahdemar; Question called; All in Favour; Motion carried.*

Break ~ 10:47 AM – 11:05 AM

- Discussion of Draft Board Policy and Procedures Document
⇒ *Recommendations from the Policy Review Committee on the draft board policy and procedures document.*

The Policy Review Committee met on 25 October to go through the draft board policy and procedures document. The Committee reviewed up to page 12 of the document and has some questions, recommendations, and additions. The Committee will need to meet again to go through the entire document. They will then bring their concrete recommendations and discussions to the board.

Overview of Discussion:

- The board is not a legal entity, and the board's energy should be focused on things such as the Secretariat and community engagement.
- The board needs to identify its priorities.
- Recommendation to table the document until the committee can meet. The committee will forward their recommendations to the APFA staff as they come up. Staff can then send this information to the other board members.
- In order to own the document the board members can also read the document.
- Although strategic planning is needed, it is not necessary for this particular process. This document is very general and refers to how a society operates; it is more about process. It fits in well with the mandate of the Accord and the work that has already been done.
- The effort done by any committee speaks to the need for the support that can be provided by the Secretariat. It gives a sense of the requirement for the process to legitimize itself; there will be a need for a legal review at every turn.

Action - The Policy Review Committee will meet to review the draft board policy and procedures manual.

Action - The Policy Review Committee will circulate their work on the draft board policy and procedures manual to the board, and will circulate any further work as it is completed.

6. Minister Hagen \$500,000

Background was provided for the board members on the September JAMC meeting. Prior to the JAMC meeting the chairs, coordinators, and the four political leaders were to meet and discuss the Secretariat, stable funding, regionalization, and implementing the goals of the MOU. The fact the political leaders did not make that meeting speaks to the lack of capacity we have. At the JAMC meeting, one of the chairs disagreed with how to move forward with the Secretariat. It has since been moved to the ACC and the coordinators, but MCFD has managed to become a part of this.

Minister Hagen has said \$500,000 was brought to the table, but no direction was given other than to have the coordinators and the ACC work on it. The coordinators met with Glen Parker prior to the last ACC/MCFD meeting to emphasize the importance of the \$500,000 getting out to the regions and staying out of headquarters. Roughly \$150,000 will be used for the Secretariat and a provincial forum for \$75,000. Leslie DuToit could be contracted for \$25,000, and the remaining \$250,000 would go back to the five regions. The Fraser region has recommended \$500,000 be put to the regions and each region contributes to the Secretariat, similar to dbappleton, so the regions have control.

The Secretariat, which the Interior has always supported, will be a model separate from the government so we can strategize on the Aboriginal side to either support or disagree with the Ministry. Currently there is nothing to help us deal with what the Ministry puts forward.

The ACC conference call on 3 November has excluded the coordinators, but includes Lenora, Frank, and five other MCFD staff. This format for the call is not what was agreed upon at the last ACC/MCFD meeting. Chairs are being moved to positions as staff, which also must be addressed. The coordinators are recommending the chairs either boycott or cancel the conference call and have a separate call themselves.

The board was asked to support the establishment of the Secretariat and to support the \$500,000 be transferred from headquarters. The board was also asked to support a motion for Debbie Abbott to take forward before this conference call.

Overview of Discussion:

- Request for supporting documents for the Secretariat, in order to make sure everything is detailed.
- Minister Hagen needs to be convinced the Secretariat ensures this is an Aboriginal driven process. Right now the Ministry drives it, and we are given a status the Ministry sees fit.
- Coordinators should sit on the conference call with their chairs and go on the record saying it is unacceptable to exclude the coordinators. It is also unacceptable to discuss issues this important via conference call.
- The Secretariat would help the chairs, coordinators, the four political leaders, and the TWG to work together and prevent us from feeling co-opted by the government.
- Leslie Dutoit is a valuable resource and we must take the opportunity to have her reflect our needs to the government. We need to create a briefing note for her.
- Eventually everyone will be in support of the Secretariat. It will not be a permanent entity because the funding is not ongoing.
- The chairs have faced challenges such as the issue of having a rotating chair. This has recently been resolved and now there is a new chair of the chairs with Terms of Reference. Deb Foxcroft is the new chair and Debbie Abbott is the new deputy chair. The Terms of Reference will keep the chair from getting sidetracked by the Ministry.
- We need to support the other regions in order for us to evolve into a self-determining nation. The Secretariat will allow us to be consistent across the province and show the common thread of our children.
- Rosalie Wilson will ensure the regional planning committees will commit the \$500,000, as per the schedule.
- The Secretariat will not be stepping on the political toes of the APFA; it will support all who are involved in the process equally and will allow for an opportunity for feedback.
- The Secretariat can also be very useful in an Urban point of view to see what they are doing.

Motion 5 - to support the continuation for the inter-regional Secretariat initiative and the \$500,000 committed by Minister Hagen be transferred from headquarters to the five regional planning committees and the schedule that comes out of the November 3rd conference call be adopted by the ACC.

Moved by: Pauline Terbasket; **Seconded by:** Marg Ahdemar; **Question called;** All in Favour; **Motion carried.**

Action - Provide the board members with documentation around the Secretariat.

Break for Lunch ~ 12:11 PM – 1:00 PM

Dave Hodgson and Kelly Kubik left the meeting at 12:35 PM

Chief Lynda Price joined the meeting at 1:05 PM. A brief summary of the meeting was given to Chief Price.

7. Mission Statement

At the board of directors and Political Committee meeting in January it was decided to have our Mission Statement be more of an action item. At the July board meeting it was decided to have the Mission Statement become the Vision Statement. From board feedback seven options for the new Mission Statement were drafted and sent to the Communications Committee. More changes were made and the new draft options are included in the meeting package.

The Mission Statement should apply not only today, but also when we are into governance. Each time the Mission Statement changes, the message to the communities changes and the cost of changing the website, banners, etc. is also something to consider. Also, some words like “building capacity” may be confusing for community members and others like “choice” could mean different things to different people.

Overview of Discussion:

- In some communities, choices for where services are provided from may not be available. In others services may only be given to members.
- We are building a framework for delegated agencies and organizations. We will be the delivery and financial resources for child and family services and so we must be cautious with the language we use in our Mission Statement so we are seen as governance. We will be accountable to hold the delegated agencies accountable and must support community based models and initiatives.
- Having “to provide a framework” at the beginning of the Mission Statement options would be appropriate as that is what we’re doing. The word “welfare” has negative connotations and should be omitted.
- There is a concern we will take over delivering child welfare for the delegated agencies, so we must send out a message we are not doing things “for” the community, but are “supporting” them.
- Several suggestions were discussed for the Mission Statement options.
- The use of the word “governance” and the feelings it could evoke was discussed.

Overview of Discussion Continued:

- It was suggested the Mission Statement be revisited once we know how the communities we will be supporting sees us. The board chose to make a decision at the current meeting.
- The attendees agreed on the following Mission Statement:

To provide a framework for Aboriginal people to develop and deliver community based child and family services.

Motion 6 –*The Aboriginal Peoples Family Accord accepts the above Mission Statement as read.*

Moved by: Lori Swanson; **Seconded by:** Deb Canada; *Question called; All in Favour; Motion carried.*

7. Ends Policies

Policies are generally categorized as governance policies, staff policies, and ends policies. Ends policies are high-level policies that ensure staff always knows what direction the board wants staff to follow. It provides a mandate for staff to achieve. It will also ensure staff does not get pulled around by the Ministry because they will always know what the board wants to advocate and pursue. A two-day meeting will allow the board to look at where we are going.

Overview of Discussion:

- It was asked if these policies will be useful given there is no business plan. These policies could objectify the results.
- The ends policies will bundle up what the communities want us to accomplish so we can avoid doing what the government wants us to do. It will allow staff to say to the Ministry certain things are wrong because there will be a clear board directives to refer to, instead of staff guessing what they should be doing.
- The ends polices will give everyone an idea of our destination and will allow us to make decisions as to what is right and wrong. We can say, “No we are not participating in that”.
- These policies will permit us to have a message to bring to conferences that reflect community needs, rather than us simply reacting in order to have some input.
- It is necessary to have a two-day meeting to discuss the ends policies, even though it may be difficult for some to request leave from work.
- Although the final ends policies will not come out of the two-day meeting, it will give everyone an idea of what we want.

Action - Set up a two-day board meeting in either Kamloops or Quaaout Lodge for January 13 & 14, 2006 to discuss ends policies

Action - Board members will submit names and profiles of possible facilitators to APFA staff for the January 13 & 14, 2006 meeting.

Action - Draft Terms of Reference for the January 13 & 14, 2006 meeting facilitator.

Motion 7 - to have a two-day board meeting to discuss ends policies, which will replace the regular two-day board meeting.

Moved by: Deb Canada; **Seconded by:** Pauline Terbasket; **Question called;** All in Favour; **Motion carried.**

Break ~ 2:57 PM – 3:08 PM

8. Update on Community Gatherings

Although the attendance at the Creston gathering was low due to another event in Cranbrook at the same time, the gathering itself was successful. Everyone was very supportive. The notes from the gathering are not yet compiled. The gathering began with a brief overview of the APFA followed by an update from Bart Knudsgaard on the Kootenay Service Delivery Plan. The attendees were then broken into smaller groups to discuss the questions, while staff wrote their answers. One strong message from the gathering is that the APFA must be about supporting the whole family, not just children. Dan Odenbach went to Cranbrook to present the questions with Bart. It was a simple process and people understood it.

The dates for the next gatherings are now set. The next gathering in Williams Lake will be on 8th November. The board members are asked to attend the gatherings to assist with the question portion of the day as well as to speak to the group.

The posters produced for each gathering have different contact numbers for board members. The posters are also being sent to the media. There was some media coverage in Creston and there has been a request from someone in Williams Lake to have more information. The invitations and posters are being sent to the communities two weeks prior to the gathering date.

Overview of Discussion:

- Williams Lake was chosen as the location for the gathering in the northern part of the region because it is central. Ideally we would like to send out at least one staff member to the communities to follow up in the future and talk about the region.
- Information should be sent to the communities as soon as possible and board members should be sent the lists of those organizations contacted so the board members can follow up with them later.
- It was asked if travel is being supported. One elder and one youth from each community will have their travel paid for. We currently don't have policy in place for people traveling the day before the gathering, so we don't know if we should pay for their accommodations as well. This is where policies would be useful.

Action - Send out the invitations and information for the gatherings as soon as possible. Board members should follow-up with the organizations prior to the gathering.

9. Additional Agenda Items

Motion 8 - to accept the Aboriginal Mental Health Planner Update as presented.

Moved by: Pauline Terbasket; **Seconded by:** Donna Steeves; Question called; All in Favour; Motion carried.

Update from Debbie Abbott on conferences and meetings she has attended. She attended a dialogue session around early learning and an Aboriginal Head Start meeting. At the early learning dialogue she was able to change one Chief's thinking about regionalization. Childcare is being changed and implemented at the end of October, but it is unclear what it means for communities. The Aboriginal Head Start meeting was frustrating because there was little notice for the national and regional applications, which makes it difficult for the smaller communities with less capacity to participate in these initiatives. There may be a level of frustration expressed at the community gatherings due to these overwhelming issues.

It was noted HRDC was present at the Friendship Centres' last meeting to ask the Friendship Centres to collect information on ancestry and provide it back to HRDC. It was also noted funding for Head Start and other programs is being moved to health regions, which has caused the fear that it will not make it to the communities. The TWG could act as a portal for these things. It is good we are meeting with the grass roots and build from that, because we cannot do it by ourselves.

It was suggested the chair should call the Shuswap and Urban communities for the record to let them know there is a vacant seat. It was noted the Friendship Centres will be having an Interior meeting in the near future and names for an Urban representative can be put forward and a decision made then.

Action - Debbie Abbott is to contact the Shuswap Nations to submit a name for the vacant board seats. Marg Ahdemar will speak to the Interior Friendship Centres and have them submit a name as well.

It was noted Susan James was unable to attend this board meeting.

10. Close

Closing prayer provided by Eliza Terbasket.

Meeting adjourned at 3:51 PM